

Jordan serves as role model

by Kathy Davey

for the *Tundra Times*

Darryl Jordan, the second Alaska Native to serve on the Anchorage School Board, said that the greatest accomplishment of his first year on the board has been providing a role model for students, parents, teachers and other people in the community.

Jordan, an Athabascan Indian, was born in Glennallen 32 years ago. He moved to Anchorage at age 3.

He said that the teachers of the Anchorage school system were his primary motivators.

"They continued to push and drive and made it fun to do homework," he said.

Since then Jordan has received two civil engineering degrees from the

(Continued on Page Six)

• 'Education is key'

(Continued from Page One)

Massachusetts Institute of Technology and is currently employed as senior project engineer for Arco Alaska Inc.

"Education is the key to all of that," Jordan says of his accomplishments. And he said students today need to be encouraged by someone who understands that lesson.

Jordan said many dropouts have no job, no money and no self-esteem, which all result from no education.

"Ideally, all children should have equal opportunity to learn just as much as they want to learn," he said. And he stressed that learning should be fun and challenging and should include all that is necessary for survival.

Jordan said there are special problems Native students have which may contribute to the high dropout rate of that group. Because of the clash of Native and Western cultures, Jordan said many Native parents don't yet understand how the system works, that education is as important for success as learning traditional ways.

Therefore, Jordan said, the parents don't push and don't get involved. This works against the students, he said.

"It's the challenge of the system to motivate those kids," he said.

Jordan explained that one of his priorities for the school district is implementing a plan for affirmative action that has specific goals. The district needs many Natives working within the district, especially in high level jobs, he said.

"More education is better, especially at the high school level," he said. In fact, Jordan would like the current six-period system in the high school to be replaced by a seven-period system.



As for the rest of his school board term, Jordan said he hopes to put more stress on campaigns against the use of alcohol and drugs by students. He also said he hopes his next two years are more productive as his understanding of how the system works increases.