

Isabelle Walters, Tlingit, studies for pharmacy health career

Isabelle Walters a Tlingit from Ketchikan, is a pharmacy student at Oregon State University in Corvallis, Oregon. Her husband, also a pharmacy student, and their three year old child are in Ketchikan where Isabelle is spending the summer getting experience at the Outpatient Clinic of Ketchikan Hospital.

At present there is one other Alaska Native, working in Fairbanks, who has finished pharmacy school. Isabelle will be the next health professional Alaska Native in the area of pharmacy.

The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) Health Career program was responsible for her placement at the Ketchikan Hospital through the summer Health

Career Trainee Program.

AFN's Health Career Development Program has established several trainee positions which provide students with the opportunity to work during the summer in a variety of health oriented agencies in Alaska.

Since Alaska does not have any health professional schools, students must spend one to six years outside the state to complete their education.

The traineeships are utilized to encourage student return to Alaska upon completion of their health professional education. The students are placed in a structured work experience, or traineeship which is based upon the student's level of education, career interests, academic and clinical needs.