

15 Native Students to Embark on Study Tour

FAIRBANKS—Fifteen Native students at the University of Alaska here will take a break from the traditional course of study this fall to embark on a study tour of the western United States.

The tour, sponsored by Student Orientation Services (SOS), is designed to familiarize the students with problems — and solutions — facing American Indians. Each student will earn 12 academic credits during the 14-week trip.

Taking the tour will be Dorothy Napoleon and James Joseph of Hooper Bay; Darlene Wright of Anchorage; Don Komakhuk of Nome; Linda Pete of Eek; Linda Lincoln, Carolyn Fields and Reginald Joule of Kotzebue; Rita Hunter of Marshall; Adelheid Herrmann of Naknek; Lucille Atkinson of Metlakatla; Reginald Joseph of Fairbanks; James Akaran of St. Mary's; and Elmer Jackson of Kiana.

Touring with the students and acting as advisors and instructors will be Helen Atkinson, SOS counselor, and Nancy Crawford, assistant professor of English for SOS.

Mrs. Crawford explained the purpose of the trip is "to show the students what's happening here. Only six of them have ever been outside, and for three it was just a brief trip.

"We're trying to make this segment of the students' education relevant to them," she went on. "By being able to get out of the formal classroom arrangement, we hope this will bring what they're learning closer to home."

The trip schedule plans for stops at universities with Native programs, Indian reservations in western United States, and urban Indian centers.

The group will leave here Sept. 10 for Southeastern Alaska. They will take the ferry to Seattle, and there pick up two vans which they will drive for the remainder of the trip.

They will make a loop of the western states, going through Idaho, Montana, South Dakota, Wyoming, Utah, New Mexico, California and back to Washington. They plan to return to Fairbanks Dec. 15.

During the tour, the students will earn three credits in English, six credits in history through special topics courses in American Indian heritage and Alaska Native heritage, and three credits in individual study, to be arranged before leaving campus with a professor here. Most of the students will do this study in fields such as sociology, anthropology, or education.

During their travels, they will meet with many tribal leaders, youth leaders, and university educators, as well as hold their own group discussions. Each student will be expected to write a term paper for his history credits and independent study credits.

The students involved in the project are enthusiastic. Miss Crawford reports, and have already begun preparatory work. This past semester on campus they have met twice weekly for evening discussions. In addition, they have done much of the planning work themselves.

This summer each student is to return to his village or city and prepare a home study of the community. Thus when discussing Alaska's native situation with Natives and educators outside, he will be adequately prepared.

Miss Crawford explained the students anticipate passing on knowledge about Alaska's natives in addition to learning about other groups. They will share their knowledge of dances and art, as well as information about their own community's educational system, religious customs, government, and so on.

Although efforts are being made to keep the trip at a low budget — students will stay as guests in homes or camp out — such a trip is still costly.

"Each student has put in the money he'd pay for room and board, plus \$200 each, in addition to paying his regular tuition and fees," Miss Crawford said, "but we're still short."

But the group is hopeful that donations between now and September will fill the gap, and invite interested persons to contact them care of SOS, Constitution Hall, University of Alaska, Fairbanks.