

SIXTH ANNUAL ALASKA BILINGUAL—MULTILINGUAL CONFERENCE

"Our People, Our Land" will be the theme of the Sixth Annual Alaska Bilingual-Multicultural Education Conference to be held in Anchorage at the Sheraton Anchorage Hotel, February 13-15.

The conference, co-sponsored by the Alaska Bilingual-Bicultural Advisory Council and the Alaska Department of Education, is expected to draw 350 to 400 teachers, classroom aides, administrators, school board members, university staff and community members throughout the state to attend the plenary sessions and a choice of more than forty-five different workshops.

Highlights of the conference include an opening address by Dennis Demmert, staff assistant to the president, University of Alaska. At a Thursday noon luncheon, conference participants will hear a presentation on the challenges and strategies of bilingual education by Dr. Carlos Ovando of the University of Southern California. Ovando is a consulting editor for the Phi Delta Kappan and was a member of the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development Yearbook Committee for 1979.

Another featured speaker will be Dr. Edward Steinman, a civil rights attorney and professor of law at the University of Santa Clara. The general session topic is "Teacher Responsibility and Bilingual Education." Steinman argued the 1974 Lau vs. Nichols case before the U.S. Supreme Court. This landmark case has resulted in expanded educational rights for nearly five million limited-English-speaking students. Steinman will also conduct a workshop entitled "The Ramifications of Lau vs. Nichols" and deliver a second speech at a general session.

Workshop sessions covering cross-cultural training, materials development, teaching techniques, classroom management, varieties of English, staff development, parent/community involvement, program administration, languages and language studies, curriculum development and arts in the bilingual classroom will be presented by recognized experts from Alaska and many other states.

Staff members from the Anchorage, Iditarod, Kenai Pen-

insula, Lake and Peninsula, Lower Kuskokwim, Lower Yukon, North Slope Borough, St. Mary's and Southwest Region school districts will be among the 45 presenters.

Other institutions supporting the conference include the Alaska Native Language Center; Alaska Pacific University; the Alaska State Museum; the Bilingual Education Technical Assistance Center, Tacoma, Wash.; The Bilingual Training Resource Center, University of Washington; Kuskokwim Community College; the Northwest Regional Education Laboratory; the National Bilingual Materials Development Center, Anchorage; the University of Alaska, Anchorage; the University of Alaska, Fairbanks; Association of Alaska School Boards; Tundra Times; the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, Region X, Office for Civil Rights.

Students also will participate in the conference. Special workshops designed to develop student leadership will be offered. They include: a panel presentation of student activities in bilingual education programs; the "Alaska Native Land Claims Settlement and Me," to be presented by Thomas Richards, editor of the Tundra Times; dancing and storytelling in school programs, to be presented by the Nunamta Dancers; and career opportunities in cross-cultural education.

Students also will host a social hour for conference presenters featuring cultural hors d'oeuvres on February 14.

Celebration of the pluralism of Alaska's people through the arts will be carried out throughout the three-day conference which will culminate in a closing banquet on the evening of February 15 at the Sheraton Anchorage Hotel.

Conference participants may elect to register for one university credit through either University of Alaska, Alaska Pacific University, Inupiat University or Sheldon Jackson College.

Further information about the conference schedule and registration procedure can be obtained by contacting Judith Strohmaier, Conferences and Institutes, University of Alaska, Fairbanks, (907)479-7882, or Judy Franklet, Department of Education, Juneau (907)465-2841.