

# UAA to study sustainable Arctic communities

**ANCHORAGE** - The National Science Foundation has awarded a \$1.8 million grant to the University of Alaska Anchorage Institute of Social and Economic Research and the University of Alaska Fairbanks Institute of Arctic Biology to investigate the "Sustainability of Arctic Communities."

"UAA has the lead role in the "Sustainability Project," a four-year, multi-university project" according to ISER Director Jack Kruse who will serve as co-prin-

cipal investigator with Dr. Robert White, Director of the UAF Institute of Arctic Biology.

For the past 25 years, communities in Alaska's Arctic have sustained a way of life based on a combination of harvests of caribou, marine mammals and other resources; cash incomes derived from petroleum revenues and other resources; and local control exercised through tribal organizations, regional governments and Native owned corporations, Kruse explained.

The study will integrate existing research on caribou, vegetation, subsistence, and industry with the goal of understanding how regional, and national policies can help to sustain human communities in the Arctic.

While state and national entities will benefit from the "Sustainability Project," Kruse said that the primary focus is U.S. and Canadian communities heavily dependent on caribou. "Policymakers would like to un-

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derstand the possible implications of development and global change on subsistence, the cash economy, and the ability of local communities to control their futures.

Institutions collaborating with UAA and UAF include the University of Colorado Boulder; University of California, Berkeley; University of Minnesota; Dartmouth College; University of

Arkansas; Grinnell College; Canadian Wildlife Service; U.S. National Biological Service; Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

North Slope Borough; Northwest Arctic Borough; and thru the Canadian EMAN Project, the Gwich'in Renewable Resource Board; Inuvialuit Game Council; Canadian Porcupine Caribou Management Board; Council of

Yukon Indians; Vuntut Renewable Resource Council;

The Council of Athabaskan Tribal Governments has been invited to collaborate.

The interdisciplinary group will focus on relationships between global changes in climate and development and changes in vegetation, caribou populations and movements, human use of caribou, wage employment, and perceived local control, Kruse said.