Juneau twins selected for art awards

Two Juneau residents have been chosen for the Vice President's Achievement Award at the University of Washington for academic excellence.

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Tlingit twin brothers, Michael and Richard Beasley, 29, were honored recently at the 15th Annual Educational Opportunity Program awards dinner in the Seattle Sheraton Hotel in Seattle.

The Beasleys are seniors in art and metal design. Michael intends to graduate in June and return to Alaska, where he will apprentice himself to a master Tlingit artist in order to perfect his Native Alaska design sense in painting and carving. Richard plans a similar career.

The Educational Opportunity Program, established in 1968 and now serving 2,741 undergraduates, recruits minority and economically disadvantaged students and provides them with counseling, as well as academic and financial support during their enrollment at the university.

"The entire community can be very proud of this program and all the outstanding people who have benefitted from it," said Andy Reynolds, president of the Friends of EOP. "In our 15th year particularly, we'd like to honor all who have participated over the years with our 'Celebration of Excellence' theme."

"Every effort must be made to educate and to prepare minority youth for leadership roles in the 21st century when the economic strength of this country will require ever stronger ties with Third World countries and people," said Dr. Herman D. Lujan, UW vice president for minority affairs.

"We feel we have a story to tell," Lujanm added. "The stories heralding the academic achievements of our current and former students should not be missed."



Richard Beasley, left, his twin brother Michael and their mother Dorothy Beasley of Seattle recently attended a birthday celebration for their grandfather Judson L. Brown, who turned 75 March 14.