

AFN, Inc. attends Indian Resources workshop

Minority Business Enterprise sponsors San Francisco meet

Nick Landis and Sammy Lamebull attended the Indian Resources Workshop, sponsored by the San Francisco Regional Office of Minority Business Enterprise, at Tucson, Arizona, Feb. 2-4, 1976.

A good presentation on Indian Small Business Development was given by Ernie Stevens, director, American Indian Policy Review Commission.

Additionally, both Nick and Sammy had an opportunity to meet with Joe Vasquez, head of the Indian Office, Office of Minority Business Enterprise, and to discuss problems peculiar to the Alaskan Native.

Alaska, Anchorage. At one time, Kathy herself was a health administrator intern under the supervision of the director, Don Bantz.

Elaine Walbroek, director of the Master of Public Health Program for Native American, University of California, Berkeley, makes periodic recruiting trips to Alaska. On Feb. 23, Elaine met with interested students at Anchorage Community College to show slides and talk about the Berkeley program.

The MPH program for Native Americans began in 1971. Since

graduated from the program with Masters of Public Health degrees. All three of them work in important positions related to policy-making decisions in health care delivery in Alaska. Two additional Alaska Natives will be graduating in spring 1976 and 1977.

Only five students have withdrawn from the MPH program from the beginning to the present time. This low drop-out rate is attributed to the special recruitment, selection and other program efforts including counseling, social supports, and the effect of the clustering of Indian students; advocacy for the Indian student interests in relation to the university; and the provision of adequate traineeships.

New methods in student recruitment, identification, and selection were attempted, and an all Indian Advisory Board was created that meets on occasion with faculty and continually on an individual basis with staff. AFN has a representative on this board to speak for Alaska Natives interests.

The number of highly trained minority health professionals is still quite small. The need for Alaska Natives and American Indians to become health professionals is enormous.

The health care policy statement adopted regionwide by AFN states "Manpower development efforts must continue, with special attention given to the development of Native medical and dental professionals and paraprofessionals during the next 10 years."

"This is necessary because of the limited number of Natives presently qualified in these fields and because of the extensive time necessary for formal education and training in such professions."