

**Certificate of Merit—****Alaska Skill Center Receives Award**

THE ALASKA SKILL CENTER, SEWARD, ALASKA has been selected to receive the Certificate of Merit Award for outstanding achievement in the field of vocational education, it was announced by William E. McLaughlin, Regional Commissioner, Office of Education, Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, Region X, Seattle.

The Center provides in-residence vocational education for 200 Alaskans and represents an educational ideal which is unique and the only one of its kind in the State of Alaska.

The Center is open year round and operates on an entirely individualized basis. Students enter at any time, concentrate on those areas most relevant to their needs, progress at their own rate, and leave whenever they have acquired the skills and knowledge demanded by their chosen career.

The whole idea is to help trainees help themselves in their own way, at their own level of ability. The four broad cluster training areas open to students are, culinary service, clerical and office, mechanics, and building

maintenance.

The Office of Education cites an outstanding vocational and technical program in each of DHEW's 10 regions monthly. The Alaska Skill Center was selected for Region X for the month of May.

The purpose of the program is two-fold: (1) to improve the quality of educational programs in these fields through friendly competition to obtain regional and national recognition, and (2) to obtain favorable national and local publicity for these programs.

**Native Youngsters Environmental Meet**

Eskimo, Aleut and American Indian students representing 23 tribes attended a conference on environmental awareness early this month in Washington, D. C.

"Environmental awareness is an area in which we American Indian people are more concerned than others," BIA Commissioner Louis R. Bruce told them. We still call it ours. And we hope people will keep it as it is now."

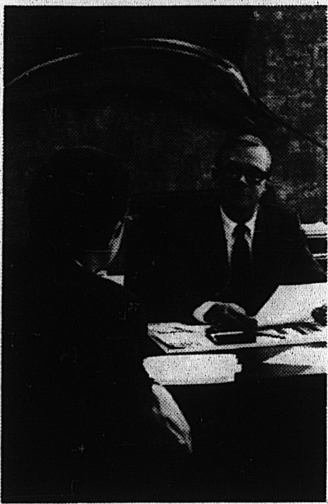
The group met for five days. Speakers included Wilma Victor,

special assistant to the Secretary of Interior for Indian Affairs; Ed Coate, President's Council on Environmental Quality; and James Hawkins, director of education for the BIA.

One of the decisions of the conference was that measures may have to be taken to force industry to decide 10 years in advance where to place an industrial plant.

It is hoped that by 1975 the pollution problem might be settled.

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