

Rural Small Business Conference dates set

This year's Rural Small Business Conference will be held at the Anchorage Hilton Hotel from Feb. 17 to Feb. 19. This conference is designed to provide business and technical information to rural Alaska business persons.

A focal point of the conference will be the Rural Alaska Marketplace — a trade show and networking forum to bring together rural Alaskan businesses with po-

tential suppliers. Participation as an exhibitor can provide an excellent opportunity to meet and talk with potential rural Alaska business customers, at a fraction of the cost of traveling to rural areas.

The conference begins Monday, Feb. 17, with workshops for the participants.

Tuesday, Feb. 18, the Rural Alaska Marketplace will be open from 11:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m., with a box lunch served

in the trade show area at noon. A catered reception in the trade show area from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. will conclude the day's activities.

The trade show will open up again Wednesday morning at 10:30 a.m. and stay open until 12:30 p.m. Conference participants can utilize their newly-acquired technical knowledge to learn even more about the products and services

which can make their businesses more efficient and profitable.

The conference will conclude with a sit-down luncheon for vendors and participants from 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Sponsored jointly by National Bank of Alaska and Alaska Village Initiatives, information on how to participate or to reserve exhibit space can be obtained at (907) 274-5400.

Alaskan artist-designed blanket given to UAF museum

by Jamie Tanner
Special to the **TundraTIMES**



The University of Alaska Fairbanks held a reception at the university museum Dec. 12 for the Pendleton quilt which is part of the Athabaskan Heritage Collection.

The quilt was created by artist Kathleen Carlo and is the first of four such quilts in the spirit keeper series sponsored by the Doyon Foundation.

About 1000 of the quilts will be sold at the museum for a limited time. The first 300 quilts will be signed by the artist and sold for \$300 each. The remaining quilts will be sold for \$250.

The Doyon Foundation sponsored this fundraiser for educational programs in the area. "This is an effort to share with and promote Native artists with the public. Doyon funds are all structured to instill a cultural pride within the community," says

Miranda Wright, Doyon executive director.

The quilt was manufactured by the Pendleton Woolen Mills Company in Portland, Ore. This is one of the oldest companies to produce the Indian trading blankets. The blankets are 64" x 80" and 100 percent wool.

The quilt is entitled "Seyelneyoo," meaning 'my relatives.' The quilt characterizes the Koyukon Athabaskan oral tradition. It is a story of three Athabaskan clans: the bear clan, shown by bear prints; the caribou clan, depicted by caribou horns; and water, shown as three wavy lines. The background is inspired by the color of smoked moose skins, according to Carlo.

"When I heard about the competition in the Doyon region, I entered because they helped me go to school and get a bachelor of fine arts degree. I just wanted to give something back," says Carlo.

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