

Project Now begins at Fairbanks Native Center

Project Now, a supplemental alternative education project, began Sept. 20 at the Fairbanks Native Community Center.

Funded under the Johnson O'Malley program, Project Now serves students attending the local borough district schools.

Originally developed to assist Native students in better adapting to the urban school system, Project Now hopes to instill confidence in the students by teaching them to communicate arts and native culture. With something to

relate to and identify with, the project hopes the students will do better in and take more interest in regular high school classes.

The Parent Committee of Project Now felt the program would help the students make the transition from a basically Native oriented household to a non-Native atmosphere at school by providing the means to get effective results.

Each high school class tries to include Native culture in teaching the various methods

of communication, thereby giving the student something familiar to begin with. By identifying with their culture, each student will gain more knowledge of his culture and be proud of his heritage.

Workshops will also be held in the elementary and junior high schools on the Native culture, such as how to tan a hide, exhibitions of beadwork, etc. These workshops will serve as a vehicle to educating the students on Native ways of life. The students themselves may even demonstrate their own skills to their peers.

Classes and instructors are:

Land Claims, Roger McPherson; Journalism, Agnes Griffith; Native Culture, Etta Lord; T.V. Production, "Bo" Bodart; Photography, Curt Madson; and Art, Linda Mae Scholman.

High School classes are Mon. and Wed. from 3:43-5 p.m., or Tues. and Thurs. from 3:43-5 p.m. and 4:35-6 p.m. Students may take one or two classes at any of the above times.

Labs will be held on Fridays from 3-6 p.m. where activities will be held that interest everyone such as guest speakers, demonstrations of tanning a hide, or field trips to places of interest.

Other activities may include a trip to the AFN Convention or Nulato stick dance to give the student a chance to film, photograph and report the event.

Transportation to and from school will be provided for Project Now students only. The Project Now van stops daily at West Valley H. S. at 2:30 p.m., Lathrop H.S. at 2:45 p.m., and North Pole H.S. at 3:30 p.m.

For more information come to the Fairbanks Native Community Center at 102 Lacey St., contact another Project Now student for details, or call Project Now at 452-1648, ext. 52.

Bilingual directors

Mauneluk Assoc. announced today that it had hired Nita Sheldon of Noorvik, Alaska and Ruthie Tatgavin Ramoth, a native of Selawik, Alaska to co-direct a bilingual materials development program for the Northwest Region.

The program, funded by the Department of Health, Education and Welfare under the Indian Education Act, will sponsor materials development workshops in each of the eleven (11) villages in the NANA Region, at a cost of over \$100,000.00.

The program, known in Inupiaq as Aglaktit Makpigarrut, or "Teachers Making Books", will be headquartered in the village of Noorvik, Alaska. This will be the first region-wide program conducted by Mauneluk, the regional Native non-profit corporation, which is directed from one of the villages outlying the regional center of Kotzebue.

Mauneluk's president, Dennis J. Tiepelman stated, "Now that the bush phone system is finally being implemented, we feel it is worthwhile to experiment with

decentralization. When the talent comes from the villages, the program should move to the villages, where feasible. We would really like to see this concept work".

Mrs. Towarak's first act as Codirector was to address a letter to all bilingual teachers in the region, soliciting their assistance in making the program a success. These teachers will be the main resource for the materials development project.



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By the end of this year we'll have more than 400 employees on the North Slope alone. Their

jobs will be to produce the oil, operate the facilities and keep the life support systems going when we're into production.

The ratio between jobs and dollars clearly shows that ours is a capital-intensive industry. We bring large amounts of money into the state (lease payments, taxes and royalties).

On the other hand relatively few of those dollars are required to provide social services, schools, hospitals, etc. for our own employees.

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