

# Title VII Indian Education Program

## Anchorage School District

March/April 2006 Bulletin Updates and Information  
For Parents and Students K through 12



### RECAP: Scholarship Building Workshop Thanks Sponsors and Students Who Participated

#### Special Interest Articles:

- Scholarship Building Workshop Recap
- Opening for Parent Member on NAC
- Introduction of NAC Members
- NAC Student Rep
- Title VII Program Overview Part II: Social Roles and Responsibilities
- Tips for Parents: Building Assets

#### Contents:

Recap: Scholarship Building Wkshp	1
NAC Seat Vacancy	1
NAC Members:	
Parents & Teacher	2
NAC Student Rep	2
Title VII Part II:	
Social Roles and Responsibilities	3
Assets Training	3
Tips for Parents	3
Upcoming Events	4

The Title VII Indian Education Program (IEP) hosted a Scholarship Building Workshop in March, assisting Alaska Native and American Indian students in the Anchorage School District to build their scholarship portfolio in anticipation of submitting scholarship applications for spring deadlines.

Melissa Lamebull Ingram was the program representative for the Title VII IEP. She said that the effort was a great success because of sponsorship from various organizations. There were 12-15 students who attended the after school sessions, and community members joined the students to assist in proofreading and editing the students' personal essay. Lamebull Ingram said that the community members enjoyed

themselves, and students really appreciated their input.

Students were given tips on how to find and to apply for scholarships and how to get their folders in order. One student said, "I am the kind of student that wouldn't get my folder finished, but with this workshop I got everything that needed to be done, done."

**Title VII IEP thanks:**  
Tabetha Toloff - **The CIRI Foundation**  
Carol Wren - **CITC, Inc.**  
Leonardo P. Wassilie - **Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium**  
DeWayne Ingram - **Home Depot**  
Angela Elenbast - **Title VII IEP Community Counselor.**

### Parents: Join the Native Advisory Council

#### INTERESTED PARENTS

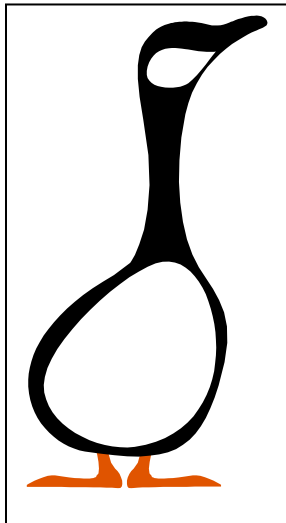
Join the Title VII Indian Education Program  
Native Advisory Committee

There is a seat vacancy for one parent committee member. The NAC meets once a month and provides advisory input to the Title VII IEP of the Anchorage School District. Contact the IEP Office: 742-4445 for information.

### Meet the Members: Introducing Three NAC Members

*"Parents should show their heritage, and they should volunteer in their kids' schools."*

*- Rosa Luhrs, Parent, NAC*



#### Alaska

##### Native Ways

*Honor Your Elders  
-- They Show You  
the Way in Life*

*- Inupiat*

Parents, Teachers and Administrators from the Anchorage School District (ASD) make up the membership of the Title VII Indian Education Program Native Advisory Committee (NAC).

Dalee Sambo Dorough, whose family originates from Unalakleet, joined the NAC because her daughter is an ASD student, and she wants to make sure Native students "are receiving the best possible services as a distinct Indigenous people, as distinct from other minorities." She would like to see the NAC gain status as an advisory committee to the ASD, similar to the Minority Concerns Committee because Natives are a separate and distinct group whose issues are very unique, such as transitioning from rural to urban status.

As a parent, she encourages other Native parents to take their child's education very seriously because the parents are the primary advocates for their children.

Suzanne Woods, raised in Kotzebue, is a third grade teacher at Fairview Elementary. She joined the NAC to become familiar with Native education issues and to make sure the funding is being utilized efficiently. Woods said

that as a teacher, she is also giving input from a teacher's perspective. "If we can assist students to become proficient in their younger years, they will be more successful down the road." Woods wants parents to inform teachers that they are available to passing on their traditional ways or sharing their knowledge in art, stories, or craftsmanship. "I would love it if parents would come to my class." We all have a role and need to contribute.

Another parent, Rosa Luhrs, from Togiak, sits on the NAC because she is interested in listening to what the youth say to remedy the issues at their schools. She said she would also like to see the ASD teach more Indigenous languages, starting in the elementary and middle schools. Luhrs would also like to see ASD go to a paperless registration process so that they don't have to rush home from fish camp - her family goes back to Togiak each summer, "it's like a religion for us, traditional fish camp."

Luhrs encourages parents to support their kids by going to their activities in the schools. And, to the IEP staff, she says, "Keep up the good work!"

### HIGHLIGHT: NAC Student Rep, Leilani Luhrs

As the Native Advisory Committee (NAC) student representative from South Anchorage High, Leilani Luhrs said that one of her goals is to get a Title VII IEP Community Counselor at her school. In the meantime, she said that it is also her goal to help inform the Native students about the programs available to them - cultural and academic. Luhrs, whose mother

Rosa Luhrs is a parent NAC member, said, "It is awesome to be doing something with my mom. We talk a lot more about school stuff." To other Native students and parents, she says, "Don't be shy. If you don't get out there, you won't be as great as you could be." She plans to attend college when she graduates to study marine or natural biology.

## Title VII Indian Education Program Overview, Part II: Social Roles and Responsibilities

As part of its programming, the Title VII Indian Education Program staff has social roles and responsibilities. Within this area comes staff work to empower students and to assist parents in developing the strengths of their children, called building assets. IEP Community Counselor Angela Elsenbast is very familiar with being a caring adult for the Native students at East Anchorage High School.

"Our main goal is to present students with the opportunity to receive information and participate in educational and career activities. We do this by making them comfortable in coming to us to discuss everything from course scheduling to personal issues," Elsenbast said. "Then the students become empowered with the successful outcomes." Research supports that youth who have at least one caring adult in their lives are more likely to be successful with life's challenges. "On a one-on-one level

I work with students on recognizing their assets - their personal strengths and supports, and work to problem solve by utilizing those strengths and supports," Elsenbast added.

The Title VII IEP staff assists students with transition from middle school to high school. The Community Counselors go visit with the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> graders who will enter East High, and they bring a current freshman student with them to answer questions. They also hold freshman orientation for new students. For students transitioning from rural to urban schools, IEP Staff will meet the students and introduce them to teachers, staff and students. The IEP staffs take their roles seriously to provide a caring adult relationship.

## Staff Development Focuses on Building Assets

Stan Mayra and Julie Vincek of the Safe and Drug Free Schools program provided staff development training for the Anchorage School District. The focus was on the national model of *40 Developmental Assets* for youth development. The model insists on the positive involvement of all caring adults (parents, teachers, relatives, etc.) in the lives of youth and emphasizes the power of caring relationships, high expectations and meaningful involvements for youth.

There were 30 attendees, Mayra said. "We hope that the participants will approach each

interaction with students in the context of a caring, loving and supportive relationship with high expectations for success in all areas of their lives." Mayra also stated that they hope teachers, aides and parents will continually challenge students to establish healthy boundaries, develop and maintain personal values, approach the future with positive anticipation, and utilize positive social skills. For more information on parent/student asset building, contact Stan Mayra or Julie Vincek at 742-4162, Safe and Drug Free Schools Program.

## Good for You, Dads!

**Dads (and Moms!)** Check out the Assets checklist - the 40 key building blocks to help kids succeed. Go to the **Safe and Drug Free Schools website:** [www.asdk12.org/dept/sdfs/index](http://www.asdk12.org/dept/sdfs/index)

## CHUGIAK/EAGLE RIVER AREA EVENING PROGRAM

*The Title VII Indian Education Program is offering an Evening Program for students and families on TUESDAYS beginning April 11<sup>th</sup> at Chugiak Elementary. Classes offered are K-12 academic tutoring, open gym, and cultural arts and crafts. Please call Melody Ghramm at 742-3400 for more information. Chin'an*

## Summer School Registration is Approaching

Be sure to watch for information Elementary and Middle School Summer Programs are June 19 - July 25

High School Summer Program is June 21 - July 28.

## Reminder: 2006-2007 School Year Will Begin August 22

See the ASD website for more information:  
[www.asdk12.org](http://www.asdk12.org)

Title VII Indian Education Program  
Anchorage School District  
5530 E. Northern Lights Blvd.  
Anchorage, Alaska 99504

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Phone:  
(907) 742-4445

Fax:  
(907) 742-4585

[www.asdk12.org/  
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index.asp](http://www.asdk12.org/depts/IndEd/index.asp)



## April - May Highlights

<u>April 17 - 20:</u> Parent Conference Week	2:00 pm at East High School. Learn about all the summer programs and camps available for your child this summer	Elementary School, Library
<u>April 21:</u> State approved Professional Development Day		<u>May 19:</u> Flexible Release Day
<u>April 29:</u> Camps for Kids Day, Saturday 10:00 -	<u>May 4:</u> Native Advisory Committee Meeting (NAC), North Star	<u>May 29:</u> Memorial Day Holiday

## Next Issue will come out in May 2006

The next issue of the Title VII Indian Education Program Parent Bulletin will highlight the Title VII Law and how it affects the IEP. The next Parent Bulletin article will contain the final article outlining responsibilities in Cultural areas.

The Parent Bulletin is now available on the Title VII IEP web site - go to: <http://asdk12.org/depts/IndEd/newsletter/index.asp>

## About The Title VII Indian Education Program . . .

The Indian Education Program of the Anchorage School District has staff in 50 schools within the district. The program concentrates its efforts in three areas: academic assistance, counseling, and cultural enrichment. Unfortunately, there is not enough funding to place staff in every school. However, if you or your child is interested in participating in activities, please call our offices at 742-4445. The Indian Education Resource Room is located at 5530 E. Northern Lts. Blvd., Anchorage.