

**ALASKA NATIVE TRIBAL HEALTH CONSORTIUM
DENTAL HEALTH AIDE THERAPIST
TRAINING PROGRAM**

May 2010 Monthly Report



Pictured above is Tony Stevens of Hydaburg working on a Learn-A-Prep. The Learn-a-Prep is a block that simulates a tooth. The students practice using the dental handpiece to cut preparations in the block simulating cavity preparations which they will eventually be doing on real teeth in live patients.

Anchorage - ANTHC/ UW DENTEX Training Center

DHAT 1st year Student classes held this month were:

- Oral Embryology and Histology
- Oral Pathology
- Local Anesthesia
- Operative Dentistry
- Professional Role Development

Bethel - Yuut Elitnaurviat Dental Training Clinic 2nd Year Activities

- Dr. Robert Allen provided didactic and clinical instruction for three weeks in May. He reviewed common oral diseases with the students, as well as topics related to the day-to-day practice of a DHAT.
- DHAT students Corrina Cadzow, Chelsea Shoemaker, Bonnie Johnson and Alison Kaganak completed a week of village travel each from May 17 to May 27. These four students worked in Pilot Station with Dr. Anthony Brusca. The students enjoyed meeting and working with the people of Pilot Station. They are looking forward to making a second trip out to another village later this year.



Pictured above are second year students Corrina Cadzow of Fort Yukon and Chelsea Shoemaker of Sand Point working in Pilot Station.

Profiled this month is Jennifer Johnston, Administrator University of Washington, School of Medicine, Division of Physician Assistant Studies, MEDEX Northwest Physician Assistant Program



We deeply have appreciated all the contribution Jennifer Johnston has made to our DHAT program. With that here is her story that led her to working with us over the past few years. Jennifer has been the Administrator for MEDEX Northwest Program, and will be retiring this fall, after 30 years in this role. Prior to joining MEDEX, Jennifer was a 3rd grade teacher for the Edmonds school district, a small town just outside of Seattle.

Jennifer's primary role at MEDEX is program management, which includes budgets and contracts. She is also the director of admissions to the PA program. In her role as degree adviser and admissions director, Jennifer has worked with Alaska Natives to gather program prerequisites. Some applicants had relationships with Jennifer spanning six or seven years, as they worked to build their application to the PA program. The MEDEX

program has trained 31 Alaska Natives who are working as PA's throughout Alaska covering Barrow to Southeast Alaska.

Jennifer has been a national consultant on new PA program development, having experienced developing the MEDEX Sitka, Yakima, Spokane, and Anchorage satellites. While working in Sitka, she met her partner, Bill Plummer, a PA who was raised in Anchorage and was one of the first faculty members of the SEARHC Community Health Aide program.

With all of the above experience, the launch of the DHAT training program was a natural fit for Jennifer's experience. The challenges of DHAT were how to take and create a brand new oral health program within a medical school, have that curriculum approved through the School of Medicine committee and the University of Washington. More importantly, Jennifer had to discover how to admit these students into the UW, awarding a certificate.

While the logistics of negotiating a contract between a university and a tribal consortium had its own unique challenges, as a program, Jennifer is very proud of the MEDEX relationship with ANTHC. Jennifer helped negotiate degree access for PA's, and national accreditation for the MEDEX program. She hopes the same can be developed for DHAT students through the DENTEX program.

Jennifer is looking forward to retiring to her cottage among the tulips in Washington's beautiful Skagit Valley, boating when the sun shines, playing with her two grandsons, and doing special projects with MEDEX on a contracted part-time basis.

Due to student summer break, there will be no June Monthly Report.

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