



# Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium

Administration | 4000 Ambassador Drive | Anchorage, Alaska 99508 | Phone (907) 729-1900 | Fax (907) 729-1907 | [www.anthc.org](http://www.anthc.org)

## **MEDIA ADVISORY**

December 9, 2009

### Media Contact

Fiona Brosnan, Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium

907-729-1387

[ymbrosnan@anthc.org](mailto:ymbrosnan@anthc.org)

## **Dental Health Aides to graduate, go to work in rural communities**

**What:** The Alaska Dental Health Aide Therapist (DHAT) program's second graduating class will receive their certificates indicating successful completion of the Dental Health Aide Therapist training program. These six graduates will go on to a preceptorship with a sponsoring Tribal Health Organization prior to certification as a DHAT. The Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium will present white coats to seven first-year students transitioning to their second year of training.

**Why:** For residents of nearly 200 small, isolated communities in rural Alaska, access to dental care is a serious problem. The Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium and the Federal Community Health Aide Program (CHAP) Certification Board joined forces to create Alaska's DHAT program, which boosts the number of dental providers in rural Alaska and the level of dental services available to Alaska Native people. Candidates with strong ties to rural communities are selected for the DHAT program. They are trained to clean and fill teeth, perform simple extractions, and a range of preventative services. DHATs must meet the rigorous standards set by the federal CHAP certification board. Alaska's DHATs are trained in the DENTEX program, a partnership between the University of Washington and ANTHC. Students study for a year in Anchorage followed by a second year in Bethel.

**When:** 2 p.m. Friday, Dec. 11

**Where:** ANTHC, 4000 Ambassador Drive, first floor, Conference Room One

**Who:** Six graduates from around the state will receive their certificate of completion from the Dental Health Aide Therapy training program.

- Bernadette Charles from Mountain Village; preceptorship is with the Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corp. (YKHC) in Bethel
- Tambre Guido from Anchorage; preceptorship is with YKHC in Bethel
- Ben Steward from Seward; preceptorship is with Tanana Chiefs Conference in Fairbanks
- Ooyuan Nagaruk from Elim; preceptorship is with Tanana Chiefs Conference in Fairbanks
- Tatiana Barraclough from Atka; preceptorship is with SouthCentral Foundation and will work for Aleutian Pribilof's Island Association
- Marian Petla from New Stuyahok; preceptorship is with Bristol Bay Native Corporation in Dillingham

# # #

### **About the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium**

The Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium is a non-profit health organization owned and managed by Alaska Native tribal governments and their regional health organizations. For more information, please visit [www.anthc.org](http://www.anthc.org).