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George Fox College Kotzebue Center

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GEORGE FOX COLLEGE KOTZEBUE CENTER

An extension program of George Fox College, Newberg, Oregon,
providing accredited liberal arts college courses
for Northwest Alaska

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As a result of almost two years of study and planning, George Fox College has developed an extension program of college courses in the community of Kotzebue, a city of two thousand predominantly Eskimo population in northwest Alaska. The specific objective of this project is to provide higher educational opportunities for northwest Alaskan natives at the community level. This is a report of the first short-term of classes scheduled in October 1972.

This college extension program is sponsored by the Friends Churches (Quaker) of Alaska Yearly Meeting, comprising a dozen churches and 2500 adherents among the Eskimos in the villages of the Kobuk-Noatak River basin. George Fox College is the Quaker liberal arts college of the Northwest, is fully accredited by the Northwest Association of Secondary and Higher Schools, and enters the educational picture in the state of Alaska at the invitation of church and community leaders in the community of Kotzebue. The natural rapport with its church constituency and alumni in the area creates a favorable climate of interest and cooperation in which the college can effectively serve the community. A modest federal grant through the TITLE III educational program was secured to launch the pilot project.

The initial project was scheduled as a concentrated short-term during October and early November. Seven courses were scheduled offering a total of fourteen (14) quarter-hours of college credit. These specific courses were scheduled in response to suggestions from community leaders indicating areas of local interest and academic needs. The listing of courses, credit hours, and class enrollments is as follows:

INTRODUCTION TO ACCOUNTING	-	4 hours (6-wk course)	-	24	enrolled
FUNDAMENTALS OF SPEECH	- -	3 hours (4-wk course)	-	15	"
FUNDAMENTALS OF MUSIC	- -	2 hours (2-wk course)	-	8	
PERSUASIVE ADDRESS	- - -	2 hours (2-wk course)	-	17	
CONSUMER ECONOMICS	- - -	1 hour (2-wk course)	-	16	
BUSINESS LAW	- - -	1 hour (2-wk course)	-	13	
APPLIED MUSIC (Keyboard instruction)		1 hour	- -	12	
Total class enrollment			-	105	

In addition to these, two are enrolled for courses in programmed instruction, one for credit by examination, and three native adults are being assisted with their GED program of self-study toward the equivalent of a high school diploma.

The faculty for the fall term of extension classes was as follows:
Prof. Harold Wilhite, Assistant Professor of Business, C.P.A., M.A.
Prof. Roy P. Clark, Associate Prof. of Speech, M.M.Ed.

Modern classroom facilities were provided in the Friends Youth and Educational Building in the center of Kotzebue. Classes were $2\frac{1}{2}$ hours in length, and the formula of ten class hours for one hour of academic credit was used as a guide-line in evaluation.

Seventy-two (72) people were registered for one or more classes, and the total class enrollment, including duplication, was 105. Of this number 23 were registered for credit and 49 for audit. The latter means that they registered for the course and did the work of the class, but without high school background were ineligible for college admission. The registration profile shows 56 native and 16 non-native. This is 78% Eskimo enrollment. The median age level of enrollees was the young adult level, or 30 to 40 year age group. Several young people were enrolled for applied music instruction. There were 17 drop-outs from the total class enrollment, leaving 88 who completed courses. While the drop-out figure seems high by academic standards, on the other hand for those who completed courses the class absentee rate was very small, indicating a vital interest in the program and the eagerness of the people to take advantage of educational opportunities.

Cable television has come to Kotzebue and an educational radio station is scheduled to begin broadcasting within a few weeks. These facilities are available for educational purposes and studies are being made of methods for utilizing the media. Verbal commitments have been made to develop college credit courses by radio beginning in January. The pilot program will feature courses in communications and basic psychology. These will be packaged in four-week series of 20 half-hour tapes offering one hour credit to the listener who completes textbook assignments and passes an examination.

Future plans for the Kotzebue Center include a four-week mini-term in March emphasizing the Behavioral Sciences, with one-hour credit seminars in Marriage and Family, Adolescent Psychology, Alcohol Problems, Human Behavior, and Social Ethics. Further projections into next fall include an Institute on Citizenship, with mini-courses in American Political System, Urban Problems, Social Trends, and Ecological Studies. These of course are dependent upon the securing of funding for the program.

Educational options which the college is offering under this program include courses by programmed instruction and credit by examination. These are self-study programs in which the student proceeds at his own pace under the guidance of the director, and receives college credit upon completion of the workbook and the passing of the examination.

The primary objective of the program is that of helping the native develop leadership skills that will enable him to serve his own culture and society. George Fox College desires to be cooperative rather than competitive in the educational enterprise, and to serve in this way as an expression of the historic Quaker concern for the development of the total man - physically, intellectually, socially, and spiritually. While George Fox College is church-related, its educational philosophy is non-sectarian, academic, and liberal arts. It is hoped that George Fox may be welcomed as part of the educational community of the great state of Alaska.

Roy P. Clark
Extension Program Director