Nutrition expert named Anchorage home economist

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Health program planner for the Aleutian Pribilof Islands Assoc. Leslie Shallcross has been selected to the position of Anchorage district home economist for the University of Alaska Fairbanks Cooperative Extension Service. She replaces long-time home economist Sheryl Stanek, who retired last year after serving Extension for more than two decades. Stanek was awarded emeritus status from UAF in May 2005 in recognition of her outstanding service to UAF and the state.

Shallcross started her new job Feb. 13 and is responsible for Extension’s educational outreach programs in food preservation and safety, health and nutrition, and money management. She will also assist in the delivery of the federally funded and Extension-managed Food Stamp Nutrition Education Program (FSNEP) and Expanded Food and Nutrition Program (EFNEP).

Prior to her appointment with Extension, Shallcross worked for the Aleutian Pribilof Islands Assoc., the regional non-profit organization that serves the Aleut Corp. APIA provides a variety of health, education, employment, and social and community services throughout the Aleutian and Pribilof Islands region.

While at APIA, Shallcross was the coordinator of two grant programs - the USDA Women, Infants and Children Special Supplemental Food Program (WIC) and the DHHS/IHS Special Diabetes Program For Indians (SDPI). She was responsible for delivering direct nutrition services and community health, nutrition and physical activity programs. She also provided technical support for and implementation in clinical and behavioral health programs for the APIA Head Start Program and the Elders Program.

Shallcross received a master’s in human nutrition from Pennsylvania State University in 1992. She has spent much of her career working with multicultural communities and Native Americans. Her first job after graduate school was in Roswell, New Mexico, where she worked as a community health promotion specialist for the state.

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After nearly three years in New Mexico, she moved to Maine to work as a tribal nutritionist for the Passamaquoddy Indians. Over the course of five years, she held similar positions as a nutritionist, first with the Seneca Nation on the Allegheny Reservation near Buffalo, New York, and then with the Mashantucket Pequot tribe in Connecticut. She is a registered dietician.

As Extension district home economist in Anchorage, Shallcross will collaborate with Extension home economists throughout the state to provide research-based information promoting healthy diets, exercise and safe food handling. UAF’s Extension is part of the largest informal education system in the world, connecting Extension programs at land-grant colleges and universities in every U.S. state and territory. As a state land-grant university, UAF is charged by Congress to conduct resident instruction, research and outreach to people beyond the classroom.

As Alaska’s gateway to its university system, Extension serves some 60,000 Alaskans annually through its faculty educators, agents and staff throughout the state. Major program areas include agriculture and natural resources, community resource and economic development, home economics and consumer science, 4-H and youth development, and housing and energy.

Extension offers hundreds of publications, written and produced by university specialists, which contain practical information of interest to Alaska residents. Many publications are free and are available online at www.uaf.edu/ces.

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