

## **II. Evaluation of Northern Studies Students' Contributions to the North**

The central goals of the Northern Studies Program are to develop the scholarly and practical abilities of graduate students so that they make informed contributions to Alaska and to the circumpolar North.

Every three years, we will survey Northern Studies graduates and students to measure:

- \* 1) Scholarly contributions, such as books, papers, presentations at professional meetings;
- \* 2) Community contributions, such as volunteer work for the Coal Bunkers and presentations to community groups on the history of African-American pioneers;
- \* 3) Employment and business activities related to northern issues, such as work for the Fairbanks Convention and Visitors Center or the renovation and operation of a historical inn;
- \*4) Areas of satisfaction and dissatisfaction with the Northern Studies Program and suggestions for improvement

## **Part 1. Evaluation of Northern Studies Students' Intellectual Growth and Quality of Thesis/Project**

Each year the faculty will review for each graduating student:

### **A.) Baseline Measure: Statement of Goals and Objectives**

When students apply to the Northern Studies Program, they complete a "Statement of Goals and Objectives." This statement is a naturally occurring, unobtrusive measure, a good indicator of students' literacy and knowledge about and commitment to the North. As part of the program application, the statement presumably represents the student's "best effort" before entrance into the program.

### **B. ) Outcome Measure: Theses and Projects**

A committee of Northern Studies faculty will meet in May to review for each graduating student the 1) statement of goals and objectives and 2) quality of thesis or project .

This review will enable us to assess thesis and project quality and make needed revisions to the Northern Studies Program. At the same time, we can evaluate the *progress* the particular student has made, taking into account the student's beginning level.