

Overview:

Kuskokwim Campus's (KuC) proposed Certificate in Ethnobotany (EBOT) will be the first program in the state of Alaska that will concentrate on traditional knowledge

and uses of native plants by indigenous groups. It has grown out of a desire to maintain the traditional knowledge base that exists, to provide the educational foundation for further academic degrees, research, and entry-level positions; and to become the framework for potential development of new uses for native Alaskan plants. This certificate is designed to articulate into the Associate of Science (A.S.) degree approved

by UAF Board of Regents and Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU) in summer 2008.

Indigenous plants play a major role in the everyday lives of all of Alaska's rural residents. While the western term "ethnobotany" may not be recognized by many of these traditionalists, the importance of indigenous plants and the crucial roles that the flora of the region plays in food, medicine, and community well-being are recognized by all. The EBOT Program will build upon a substantial base of knowledge already in place within rural Alaska. EBOT instructors will be able to draw upon the copious local base of traditional knowledge, regionally-recognized traditional ethnobotanists, and traditional healers who have committed their lives to this science.

technology, engineering and math (STEM) fields. Improving these statistics will involve effort on many fronts and one is developing programs that can engage students' interest before they get to college, encouraging them to stay in school, enroll in college, obtain useful and marketable skills, and perhaps continue towards a four-year degree.

Ethnobotany, a discipline that is intimately connected with the traditional lifeways of

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- To provide culturally relevant research opportunities for KuC students and faculty in the life sciences. Partnerships developed will include organizations such as UAF's Institute of Arctic Biology, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Alaska State Fish and Game, NIMA Corporation, Hawaii community colleges, the Pacific Alliance, Alaska Native Science and Engineering Program, etc.
- To provide students, in their home communities, with an attractive, culturally relevant curriculum and an intermediate step in entering the associate and baccalaureate academic pathway in the sciences.
- To provide training that can be used as a stepping stone to higher-level positions for an underemployed rural workforce.
- To promote awareness of the scientific significance and economic potential of Alaska's native flora and model efforts supporting the development of regional economic ethnobotany initiatives and knowledge-based economies in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta and all of rural Alaska.

Proposed general catalog layout

With Honors Certificate

College of Rural and Community Development
Kuskokwim Campus
(800) 478-5822
www.bethel.uaf.edu

With Honors Certificate

ENG 111X or ABUS 170

b. **Computation**3-4 credits
DEVM 105 or MATH 103X or Math 107X (4 credits)

c. **Human Relations**3 credits
ANTH/SOC 100X or ABUS 154

3. Complete the following program requirements.....21-22 credits total

Natural Science Core Courses (8 credits total)

BIOL 103X (4 credits) – Biology and Society

or

BIOL 104X (4 credits) – Natural History of Alaska

or

BIOL 116X (4 credits) - Fundamentals of Biology II*

and

CHEM 103X (4 credits) – Basic General Chemistry

or

CHEM 105X (4 credits) – General Chemistry I**

Ethnobotany Core Courses (10 credits total)

EBOT 100 (3 credits) - Introduction to Ethnobotany

EBOT 200 (1 credit) – Seminar in Ethnobotany

EBOT 210 (1 credit) - Ethical Wildcrafting

EBOT 220 (2 credits) – Ethnobotanical Techniques

**University of Alaska Board of Regents
Program Approval Summary Form**

State Needs

Students



There is a well-documented need for skills-based education in rural Alaska, and CRCD is ramping up to be able to provide more of the necessary training to its rural community members, as evidenced by the large increase in certificates and personnel that have been added to their ranks in the past several years. Two of these recently-approved certificates, Veterinary Science and High Latitude Range Management, serve as models for community-driven programs.

Like most other states in the U.S., Alaska does not have an Ethnobotany program. The new EPOT

products of which key ingredients are those traditionally hand gathered from the wilderness that characterizes much of the 42 million acres of the Yukon/ Kuskokwim Delta". Another successful Alaska Native-run ethnobotanical business is *Yup'ik Way*, created and operated by Gloria Simeon (FBOT Advisory Board member) also from the V.K region of Alaska. While the considerable

Alaska Natives and Native Hawaiians in USDA careers. Ethnobotany represents an excellent tie-

Alaska Native culture as well as the study and practice of agriculture throughout the world.

Current USDA funding for the program extends to 2011, and also includes coverage of expenses