



ALASKA NATIVE  
TRIBAL HEALTH  
CONSORTIUM

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 3, 2016

Media contact:

Michelle Weston, ANTHC  
(907) 729-5653, (907) 351-2206  
[mrweston@anthc.org](mailto:mrweston@anthc.org)

## Dental Health Aide Therapy Training Program becomes a Degree program, gains financial aid eligibility and comes home to Alaska in 2017.

(Anchorage, Alaska) - June 3, 2016 -

Today, at the 2016 Dental Health Aide Therapist (DHAT) Graduation, the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC), the University of Washington MEDEX Program and Iñisagvik College announced improvements to the [DHAT training program](#). In 2017, the program will move its academic home to Alaska as an Associate's of Applied Science Degree program through Iñisagvik College, Alaska's only Tribal College.

The DHAT Program will now award an Associate Degree as well as a certificate. The certificate represents a milestone of achievement for students, and as such marks the half-way point to degree completion. Students will now for the first time be eligible to apply for student financial aid for the training.

The DHAT first year education program will continue to be delivered in Anchorage at the ANTHC DHAT Training Center. In Fall 2017, the Training Center will move onto the Alaska Native Health Campus into the new ANTHC Health Education and Training Center. The second year clinical practicums will continue to be delivered in Bethel at the [Yuut Elitnaurviat People's Learning Center](#).

ANTHC recognizes the valuable contribution, the [University of Washington \(UW\)](#) MEDEX Program made in assisting ANTHC to launch the DHAT Program and supporting Tribal access to dental care. Without the University of Washington willingness to host the DHAT program, the program would not have started. UW's support for the academic transition of DHAT has been a critical factor in ANTHC moving to a degree based program which directly benefits future Tribal students.

Congratulations to our 2016 DHAT Alaska graduates, Summer Lynch sponsored by [Southeast Alaska Regional Health Corporation](#) who will be working in Haines and Jaslyn Wren sponsored by [Southcentral Foundation](#) who will be working in Iliamna.

### About the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium

The Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium is a not-for-profit Tribal health organization managed by Alaska Native Tribal governments and their regional health organizations. ANTHC provides statewide services in specialty medical care; construction of water, sanitation and health facilities; community health and research; telehealth and information technology. For more information, please visit [www.anthc.org](http://www.anthc.org).

###

Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium  
4000 Ambassador Drive, Anchorage, Alaska 99508  
Main: (907) 729-1900 | Fax: (907) 729-1901 | [anthc.org](http://anthc.org)