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UAF's Center for Alaska Native Health Research gets \$5.3 million grant

by Staff Report

Oct 07, 2012 | 3099 views | 7 | 11 | | |

FAIRBANKS — The National Institutes of Health has awarded a \$5.3 million grant to the Center for Alaska Native Health Research in Fairbanks for the continuation of work in the areas of obesity, genetics, nutrition and cancer.

The funding, which will encompass a five-year period, will be used to fund 12 pilot grants to researchers at the University of Alaska Fairbanks, home to the Center for Alaska Native Health Research. The center is part of UAF's Institute of Arctic Biology.

Scientists receiving the pilot grants must obtain approval of any tribes whose members they wish to study, according to a Friday news release from the center announcing the awarding of the NIH grant. They also will be required to use some of the center's services.

NIH previously has given funds to the center.

The center will use the NIH funds to expand on earlier research, with the aim of having the center and its researchers in a better position to win large grants when this latest NIH grant ends.

"The next five years are critical," Bert Boyer, the center's director, stated in the news release. "We have a good track record with our work over the last 10 years in Alaska Native health disparities. We have a great opportunity to add to our knowledge."

The \$5.3 million grant, according to the center's news release, comes from the NIH's Institutional Development Award program. It is part of the NIH's effort to spread money to more states rather than giving it primarily to states with medical schools and established research scientists.

Alaska and nearly two dozen other states have not fared well in the general competition for NIH funding, the center's news release stated.

Fred Taylor, who oversees the Institutional Development Award program at the NIH, said the grant will allow the center to continue work such as the "pioneering community-based participatory research on metabolic disease and its efforts to foster the next generation of biomedical researchers in Alaska."

Contact the newsroom at 459-7572.

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retrailbigfoot | 24 Hours Ago

This is nothing more than more welfare payments to the UAF. The UAF should concentrate on teaching instead of receiving government grants.

After five years we may see a written report, a report that will cost \$5.3 million.

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SomethingForNothing | 23 Hours Ago

how do you like your welfare medicare rex?

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retrailbigfoot | 16 Hours Ago

SomethingForNothing, Medicare is not welfare. I paid into Medicare since it started and still pay into it when I do my business taxes. I also pay both the employer's and the employee's social security taxes when I do my business taxes. Last year my taxes exceeded what I received in social security. The small amounts paid by Medicare for my 3 blood pressure checkups was less than what I paid in Medicare taxes.

The UAF sets a poor example for working for what you receive. The UAF grant writers are little more than welfare beggars. I have more respect for dumpster divers.

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95lowrider | 24 Hours Ago

One could read only the title of this article and know for sure the first comment would be something along the lines of Lee's...

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hrdharry | 24 Hours Ago

Quit eating whale blubber. check please.

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Lee308 | October 07, 2012

I wonder if there is a Center for Alabama Native Health Research in Birmingham? If not this is more racist socialism.

obesity???, they need a 5 million dollar grant to figure that one out? What a joke.

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LostAlaskan_99712 | October 07, 2012

The 3 BILLION Alabama got for welfare isn't enough for you? White people have no place crying "racism" while the victims of their bigotry are still recovering from hundreds of years of murder, oppression, thievery and lies. If this is socialism I'll take it over the FASCISM this country has shown to anyone not blonde-haired and blue-eyed.

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