



# Bridging the

# Digital Divide

\$900,000 ANA Grant

January 2007

## Distance Learning in our Community

The Administration for Native Americans (ANA) awarded the Karuk Tribe a \$900,000 grant for *Karuk Paths to Prosperity*, a 3-year social/economic development project that will improve educational and employment opportunities in the remote communities of Happy Camp, Orleans and Yreka.

Historically, Karuk people have suffered at least two catastrophic disruptions of social and economic systems, including the loss of traditional village subsistence life in the late 1800s; and, more recently, the collapse of natural-resource-driven economies in the early 1990s.



**ANA Karuk Paths to Prosperity, Distance Learning Team:**  
Sara Spence (Personnel/Job Database), Gerry Canning (Website),  
Bari Talley (Student Services Coordinator, Orleans), Kelly Worcester (IT  
Technician), Rosie Bley (HC Computer Center Director), James Burcell  
(Student Services Coordinator, Happy Camp),  
James Berry (Project Director, KCDC CFO)

With ANA's provision of \$300,000 in each of the next 3 years, the Karuk Tribe will use available computer technology to increase public awareness of the wide array of occupational opportunities that exist within the ancestral territory—and then support individual community members in pursuing vocational and professional training through distance learning programs.

Toward that aim, the Tribe's Human Resources Department will create a public-access website that features different jobs ranging from entry-level clerical positions to paraprofessional

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**A 2005 survey revealed that 89% of the targeted labor force now lives in poverty.**

Among the underlying causes of poverty is low educational attainment attributed to both financial and geographic barriers.

*Karuk Paths to Prosperity* aims to remove the barriers to postsecondary education and create hope for a better future.

## How does this grant help our Center?

**On-site Staff:** It's incredible that from September 1999 until November 2006, exclusively volunteers staffed the Center.

**The Center would like to acknowledge all volunteers; especially Dorene Sitts, for her many years and countless hours of dedication in keeping the Center open.**

This ANA grant helps the Center by providing a part-time student services coordinator to assist Tribal (and non-Tribal) adults, employees and youth in gaining access to postsecondary education, provide comprehensive student support services and facilitate their academic success. Additionally, the position will help coordinate

volunteers and support community education.

**Technical Support:** Furthermore, Karuk Tribal Information Technicians are willing to help keep us operational—they are going to set up our server so that repairs can be made from Happy Camp. That's a benefit that's greatly appreciated!

During the last 7 1/2 years, I have enjoyed my part in building and maintaining the Community Computer Center in Orleans. Sometimes the volunteers were difficult to find, but now we have a new position at the Computer Center. Bari Talley will be there most of the time. I want to thank all the volunteers that helped me keep the Center open on my watch. I'm looking forward to taking some of the classes when they become available.  
Thanks Again,  
Dorene



Carole Kehrig (OCCC Volunteer) and Bari Talley (ANA Staff)

## Letter from the Orleans Student Services Coordinator

### Greetings—

I am excited about the educational opportunities for community members through the *Karuk Paths to Prosperity, Distance Learning Project*; and am delighted to be the half-time ANA Student Services Coordinator in Orleans.

### Job Focus

The Karuk Community Development Corporation (KCDC) has hired me to recruit and support post-secondary (out of high school) students in their educational efforts.

On-line educational opportunities for certifications and degrees are available at a level higher than ever before. The systems available for teachers and students to interact are also easier to use.

It'll be my job priority to help community members, especially Tribal members and Tribal employees, find educational programs available to them on-line, then help with enrollment and the on-line learning process.

### Community Computer Center

The Center provided a healthy match for the ANA grant in the form of the computers and equipment. As such, the expectation is that I will coordinate volunteers and provide day-to-day upkeep.

Orleans Elementary has priority use of the Center during the morning hours (9a-noon), and I enjoy helping and learning with the students and staff; and I am always pleased to see the after-school patrons troop in.

Additionally, the community has expressed interest in having computer classes and I will try to help facilitate those as I can. We are working on getting a train-the-trainer course set up and an online learner course as first steps.

Furthermore, we have identified a priority to be the pursuit of funding for video conferencing equipment at our site. This equipment would enable us to have real-time classes available, as well as connect us to other sites (like Happy Camp, Hoopa and Yreka) to facilitate meetings with less travel time and cost.

### Challenges

The 4-hour position can't possibly provide support to Orleans Elementary (9 to noon) keep the Center open to the community 5 hours a day (noon to 5), meet the ANA grant requirements (very ambitious), pursue grant funding and teach computer classes. Consequently, **volunteers remain vital to the Center and greatly needed to support this wonderful community resource.**

### Karuk Paths to Prosperity, Distance Learning Project

Once more, I am thrilled to be working on such a worthwhile project. Overcoming the distance barrier to education will provide genuine opportunities for a better future for individuals and our community.

Cordially ,

Bari Gayle Morehead Talley

## Volunteers Needed

Dedicated volunteers are the backbone of the computer center. They keep the doors open, develop programs, write grants, organize fundraising activities and provide training. We would love to have you join our dynamic team.

Can you donate some time? No experience needed—will train.

Volunteering is an excellent way to add experience to your resume or college application. It provides a valuable service for your community.

## Learning Computer Skills at the Center

Shelly Slusser's 3rd-5th grade class had Bea Ann Ziegler from Klamath-Trinity Joint Unified School District give them a couple of lessons in PowerPoint and they took off on their own.

The students don't seem to have any fear. "Ain't that the truth," said Shelly, who waxed poetic on Bea Ann's teaching skills.

Students are eager to learn and are feeling capable; and Shelly and Bari are learning along with the class. "I really appreciate the enthusiasm and respect this class demonstrates when they use the Center," said Bari.

Bea Ann is planning to work with Kim Hyde's 6th-8th grade class this spring teaching students how to design a Website. Bari will participate in those lessons to gain teaching techniques so

that she can pass on information to the community.

Bea Ann has expressed her willingness and accessibility to teach a train the trainer class(es) to community members in the Spring when the roads are more dependable. These classes are outside of her contract with the district, so her time/travel will have to be funded by individual participants. We will get the information out to you as it develops.

In the meantime, Bari is available to provide help on an individual basis at the Center.

"I have a good knowledge base of Microsoft Office/Adobe software, but will be more competent at teaching computer classes after working with Bea Ann and the students," said Bari.



Ashley Allgier (5th Grade) works on her **second** PowerPoint presentation

## Distance Learning Grant, cont. from page 1

health, education, family services and natural resources positions, to licensed professional and executive management positions. This website will help people identify what experience and education they need to have to qualify for the jobs when they become available.

Additionally, by converting three community computer centers to distance learning centers—or "virtual college campuses"—the Karuk Tribe will help high school students, unemployed/underemployed community members and Tribal employees access postsecondary education that previously required relocation outside the ancestral homelands. This will help reduce the alarming out-migration of our energetic youthful population.

The new ANA Grant will fund new equipment acquisition, computer center staff, and annual operating expenses. In addition, a new Student Services Coordinator at each distance learning center will provide project participants with career counseling, academic advising, financial aid advising, mentoring and job placement services.

Over the next 3 years, at least 50 Tribal members are expected to earn paraprofessional certificates or Associate's Degrees from accredited community colleges, a result of which 35 (70%) will realize significant gains in employment, such as initial job placement, increased time base or compensation, or promotion.

**Orleans Community Center Board Members: Gay Baxter, Roberta Coragliotti, LaVerne Glaze, Barry Morehead, Kenny Peugh and Martha Tilden.**

*With the snow coming down today, we will reschedule our meeting of January 16. Agenda items include, Board Membership, Policies Review, ANA Grant Update, and Programs and Planning. We will post the rescheduled meeting date. Thanks.*

## Orleans Community Computer Center Partners

*We are honored and pleased to acknowledge our community partners:*

- Arcata Economic Development Corp.
- Communities of Orleans and Somes Bar
- Happy Camp Community Computer Center
- Humboldt County
- Junction Elementary School
- Karuk Community Development Corporation (KCDC)
- Karuk Housing Authority
- Karuk Tribal Health
- Karuk Tribe of California
- Klamath-Trinity Joint Unified School District
- Orleans Elementary School,
- Six Rivers National Forest
- PC Web.net



Serving the Orleans, Somes Bar, Weitchpec and Forks of Salmon Communities since 1999

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The **Mission** of the Community Computer Center is to increase local community capacity through education, while providing a safe and secure learning environment and access to technology.

### Goals

- Provide a safe learning environment to all citizens.
- Provide a safe after-school environment for youth.
- Free access to computers, internet and quality technology education.
- Support schools, teachers and students.
- Encourage and support academic improvement.
- Access to distance learning programs.
- Encourage leadership qualities.

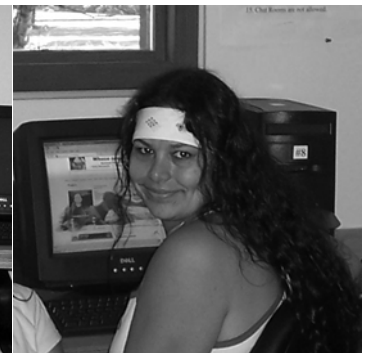
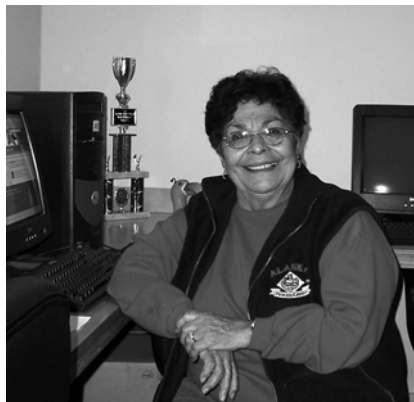
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## Open House and Volunteer Appreciation Night

**February 1, 2007**  
5-6 p.m., Panamnik Center

We want to thank our volunteers and celebrate our re-opening. Please join us.

Pictured volunteers are LaVerne Glaze, Angie McLaughlin, and Ken Ramsey. Not pictured, but appreciated past volunteers are: Dorene Sitts, Kristen King, Matt Harding, Edna Watson, Tianna Hacking, Teresa Hacking, Karen O'Rourke, Marion Lollich, Carole Kehrig, Barry Morehead, Bianca Alvarado, Debi Wright, Bruce Robison, Chris Magarian, Shawna Conrad, Jana Conrad, Venetia Flores, Millie Graber, Jill Dondero, Lloyd Woodman, Shirley Reynolds, Jacquie Blotz, Truman Davidson, Kristi Preyer, Renee Stauffer, Rudy Galindo, Erin Rentz, Pam Cobb, Lori Lee Hailey, Stephanie Underwood, Patty Underwood, Mirabai Vogt, Isaac Flattley, Lance Lammon, Roberta Coragliotti, Gay Baxter & more! Thanks!



You're invited.  
You're invited.

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