

## STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

• Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize two students of Potomac State College in West Virginia who have accomplished great feats through the assistance of our Federal TRIO programs. These programs have helped students for more than 30 years to overcome financial barriers to education.

Paul Kesner was a participant in the student support services program at Potomac State from 1977 to 1979. This section of the TRIO programs helps students to stay in college until they earn their baccalaureate degree by providing tutoring, counseling, and financial assistance. Not only was Paul able to earn his BA, he went on to obtain an MS in counseling psychology from Frostburg State University, and is currently working on his dissertation to earn a Ph.D. from West Virginia University. Paul is currently the Dean of Student Affairs at Potomac State College.

Paul was recently elected to be president of the West Virginia Association of Student Personnel Administrators. Paul is also very active in Rotary International and various other local civic organizations in his community. Paul, who grew up on a farm in Mineral County, WV, notes that, "I am grateful for the impact and change TRIO had on my life. Without it, I certainly would not be in a situation to help others progress toward their own educational goals."

Michelle Francis participated in the student support services program at Potomac State from 1989 to 1990. This Federal program helped Michelle to graduate from college and to make the career choices that she wanted to make. After earning an associate's degree from Potomac State, Michelle went on to earn her BA from Frostburg State University.

Michelle is presently the day treatment coordinator at the developmental center & workshop in Keyser. Like Paul, Michelle is also very active in her community, serving in the Ladies Auxiliary of the American Legion, and as a mentor at the Mountaineer Challenge Academy. Michelle was also awarded the 1996 West Virginia TRIO achiever award.

As the fine results of these two West Virginia citizens demonstrate, the TRIO programs are clearly helping Americans to overcome financial, social, academic and cultural barriers to earn their college degrees. Since 1965, when the Federal TRIO programs began receiving funding under title IV of the Higher Education Act, the facts have shown that students who participate in the TRIO student support services program are more than twice as likely to remain in college than those students from similar backgrounds who did not participate in the program.

Paul and Michelle have joined the ranks of many West Virginians who have achieved outstanding feats after

participating in the TRIO programs. Thirty years ago, the TRIO programs were founded on the basis that all Americans deserved the opportunity to achieve a college education regardless of race, ethnic background, or economic circumstances. Today, the town of Keyser is a better place in which to live because of the contributions of Paul Kesner and Michelle Francis to the community. Because the TRIO programs were there for Michelle and Paul, they have been able to be there for the benefit of other West Virginians.

I know that the TRIO programs will continue to help future West Virginia students to obtain a college degree, and because of this, these future students will be able to benefit their respected communities in much the same way that Paul and Michelle help the city of Keyser, WV. The TRIO programs don't just create a real society of opportunity for everyone, they result in better cities and communities throughout the State of West Virginia and nationwide.●

#### RECOGNITION OF ALASKA QUARTERLY REVIEW

• Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize a significant achievement for the literary arts in Alaska and for the University of Alaska system, in general, and the University of Alaska Anchorage, in specific.

Last month, on June 8, 1997, the spring and summer 1997 edition of the Alaska Quarterly Review was recognized in the Washington Post book review section, *Book World*, as "one of the nation's best literary magazines." That is high praise indeed coming from the Eastern press, and justified, if not long overdue recognition, of the literary prowess of the publication.

In the 15 years since its inception at the Anchorage campus of the University of Alaska in 1982, the Alaska Quarterly Review (AQR) has served as an instrument to give voice to Alaska writers and poets, while also publishing the best of material from non-Alaskan authors. While the AQR is firmly rooted in Alaska, it maintains a national perspective—bridging the distance between the literary centers and Alaska, while also sharing an Alaskan perspective. This balanced presentation of views has earned AQR local, regional and national/international recognition over the years. It is nice that recognition now also has come from a publication in the Nation's Capital.

"Congratulations for publishing one of the best among the literary magazines," said Carl Houck Smith, vice president and editor of W.W. Norton, in comments made in May 1994.

"AQR is highly recommended and deserves applause," said Bill Katz in the *Library Journal*.

"It is an impressive publication, comprising as diverse and rewarding an aggregation of work as a reader is likely to find in any literary journal,"

added Patrick Parks in the *Literary Magazine Review*.

"The Magazine has a wonderful sense of place about it, and it conveys Alaska without being parochial. It's not pushing a particular agenda. There's no coterie of writers made up of the editor's friends. The work is original and fresh," says contributing editor Stuart Dybek in explaining the publication's success.

The review, for example, won the 1996 Alaska Governor's Award for the Arts—Alaska's highest award in the arts. Recent works in the review have been selected for or won:

- 1997 Prize Stories: The O. Henry Awards (Anchor Books/Doubleday).

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- 1996 Best American Poetry (Scribner)

- 1995 Best American Essays (Houghton Mifflin)

- 1995 Andres Berger Award (Northwest Writers Inc.)

- The Pushcart Prize (1995-96 Pushcart Prize XX and 1996-97 Pushcart Prize XXI: The Best of the Small Presses).

- UAA's 1995 Chancellor's Group Award for Excellence in research and creative activity.

- 1994 Special Recognition Award from the Alaska Center for the Book.

- And numerous mentions in the *Chronicle of Higher Education*, the *Small Press Review*, *Best American Essays*, *Novel and Short Story Writers Market*, and in a host of other publications.

I rise today to honor the publication, not just because of its many awards, but because many Alaskans do not understand or appreciate the breadth and scope of the publication and how important it has become as a gateway for Alaskan authors to winning recognition from a wider literary audience. And also how it has helped to improve the literary quality of the works of Alaskan writers. I hope by these words, Alaskans will recognize how fortunate the 49th State is to have such a quality publication being edited and published from Anchorage.

I want to thank the University of Alaska Board of Regents and the leadership of the University of Alaska Anchorage for supporting the publication. Alaska's university system has been facing difficult economic times because of falling Alaska State revenues. It has taken a tremendous commitment to academic excellence to continue the funding necessary to permit the review to be a quality publication and artistic success. The University deserves great credit for its efforts at promoting the publications in these difficult financial times. It is because of the need for more revenues for the University to permit it to reach the highest level of greatness possible that I have introduced legislation to help the University finally gain the land-grant entitlement it should have received at its founding. I hope that this Congress will look favorably on my bill, S. 660. The