

2000-78-40

Tony Strong, interviewee

Stephen Lay, moderator

Series: University focus

1981

Stephen Lay said ten years ago this month then President Richard Nixon signed the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act. The bill has had a profound effect on the state. There will be a panel discussion on the Act with Tony Strong. Strong said the purpose of the discussion is to bring information to the public about the efforts that were put into the Settlement Act by the Native community, what has happened since the Act in terms of implementation of the Act, what the Act didn't deal with and the non-profit institutions that were organized prior to the Act that were part of the Act itself. Three well-known Native speakers have been selected to speak at the program. Willie Hensley was very Active during the negotiation process to pass the Settlement Act. Rosita Worl has been Active since the passage of the Act. Georgiana Lincoln has been a member of her village corporation, a member of the board of directors for her regional corporation and a director of one of the departments within the non-profit institution providing services within her community. Each one of these people will bring their own area of involvement. People will get a more complete picture of what the efforts were for passage of the Settlement Act, what has been done since the Settlement Act in terms of the implementation and what has been done by the Native community outside of the context of the Settlement Act. Lay said the claims Act is not just history, it is a major element in everyday life in Alaska today. The program will also look to the future. Strong said they will also be discussing the direction people are going now and where the implementation of the Act is going to take them in terms of the corporations themselves, businesses they will be getting into and how they will be operating the businesses to meet the needs of the Native community and to meet the needs of the general economy of the state of Alaska. They will discuss where their efforts will be put in the future. Strong sees the Settlement Act as a positive impact on the state. He feels there is still a great deal of misunderstanding about the Act and its accomplishments. He said people should be coming to this program to get an understanding of the historical Act, what is currently happening and what will be happening in the future.

Stephen Lay reports on the campus calendar and Activities.