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Wendy Redman

Karen Cedzo, interviewer

Series: University focus

University of Alaska campus in Fairbanks, Alaska

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Karen Cedzo said the University of Alaska Fairbanks recently established a women's center on campus. The director has a full agenda for the center's first year. Wendy Redman is serving as the director. The center evolved from her involvement with the campus women's network throughout last year. Redman said it became obvious that what was needed by the women on this campus was a forum to meet with one another and talk about their concerns and their experiences as a woman. Redman worked with a core group of twenty or thirty women to define the concept of the center. Funding has also been provided for a clerical position. The center will open soon and be located next to the Health and Counseling Center in the Security Building. Information will be available on a wide range of topics. Redman expects to work closely with Health and Counseling as well as local groups from the community such as Women in Crisis. The counseling center has had to turn away a lot of students who don't need to have crisis counseling, but need other women to talk to about concerns about being a student, being away from home, relationships, academic studies, etc. These situations do not need a professional counselor, but rather a need for a support group. They are looking forward to providing that kind of supportive environment. They are looking forward to having the counseling expertise of the counseling center. Although the center will be primarily be for students they hope to reach out to faculty, staff and wives of faculty and staff. They hope to address the concerns for each group. Several activities already scheduled are brown bag lunches, formal lectures, rape prevention and a radio program on KSUA. Redman said she hope the center will not only build future leaders, but also to be able to allow women to lead as women. Their primary goal is to provide support, information and education to women about themselves as women. They also hope to impact the university system. She thinks the time has come to not hide the fact that they are women, but to get in touch with themselves as women and to begin asking the institutions in our society to accept them as they are. Redman continues her position as assistant to the Chancellor while taking on this new project. Patty Kastelic staffs the center office.

Karen Cedzo reported on activities on campus and in Fairbanks.