



CENTRAL COUNCIL

*Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska*

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

November 3, 2009

**CCTHITA TO SPONSOR ESSAY CONTEST FOR  
AMERICAN INDIAN HERITAGE MONTH**

Central Council Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska's (CCTHITA) Community Services & Self-Governance (CSSG) Division is sponsoring an essay contest this month in celebration of American Indian Heritage Month.

"We are excited that we are able to offer this activity to further emphasize the rich culture and heritage of Southeast Alaska Native people during this American Indian Heritage Month and look forward to receiving many good and informative essays from our Native student tribal members," said Georgia Finau, Director of Community Services & Self-Governance.

The American Indian Heritage Month Essay Contest encourages tribally enrolled students to research who they are and what being Native means to them. In addition, it promotes discussion among students, elders, and the Native community regarding their heritage, culture, and the issues that face our Native communities in Southeast Alaska. CCTHITA encourages students to visit [www.ccthita.org](http://www.ccthita.org) to learn more about the programs and educational resources available to them through the Tribe.

The essay contest deadline is Monday, November 30, 2009. A panel of three judges will review all essays and award the grand prize of an ACER laptop, along with other prizes to runner-ups. The winners will be announced in CCTHITA's December newsletter and will also be posted on our website.

Eligible students include those who are enrolled with CCTHITA or in one of Southeast Alaska's federally recognized tribes.

For complete essay contest rules contact the CSSG Division at 1.800.344.1432 or 907.463.7157, or download the essay contest rules at [www.ccthita.org/essaycontest.html](http://www.ccthita.org/essaycontest.html).

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