Indian Affairs - Office of Public Affairs

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For Immediate Release: June 25, 1965
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Three 1965 honors graduates from Haskell Institute, the Bureau-operated vocational-technical school at Lawrence, Kansas, will be participants in a special graduation and award-presentation ceremony at the Bureau of Indian Affairs, 1951 Constitution Avenue, N.W. at 2:00 P.M. today.

The lure of the Nation's Capital brought the students to Washington a few days before the graduation ceremonies at Haskell. Commissioner of Indian Affairs Philleo Nash will, therefore, present them with their diplomas and honors awards.

The graduates are Brenda Itta, an Eskimo from Barrow, Alaska, who was selected Student Secretary of the Year, one of Haskell's highest awards; Lillian Merculief, an Aleut from St. George Islands in the Pribilofs; and Gloria Holden, a Cherokee from Muskogee, Oklahoma. All were A-average students.

Miss Itta, the eldest of 11 children, is the second member of her family to be singled out for special achievement. Her older brother last year was a member of the U.S. Team at the Olympics for the Deaf held in Finland. Miss Itta is now employed by Counselors on National Problems of Quadri-Science, Inc.

Miss Merculief and Miss Holden are both working as secretaries in the Education Branch of the Bureau of Indian Affairs.