

Hello Representatives of the House Education Committee,

My name is Fernando Escobar. I was recently nominated as the next Student Regent for the University of Alaska Board of Regents. My confirmation hearing is scheduled for May 7th at 8am for the House Education Committee.

First, thank you for your hard work and commitment to our state. Your efforts truly make a difference in Alaskans' lives. I am proud to be an Alaskan and appreciate everything you do to support our communities.

A little about me: I was born and raised on Kodiak. My family immigrated from El Salvador in the mid-2000s, and I was the first of my family to be born in the United States. My passion for public service developed during my 8th grade year and has followed me since. I was very active with student government, my school district, and my community. One of my proudest commitments, which I always like to discuss, is my involvement with the Kodiak Teen Court. This program employs a Restorative Justice model for juvenile offenders. It gave me the chance to work with young individuals in Kodiak and partner with my peers who acted as youth attorneys and judges. This experience expanded my understanding of the challenges and issues that juveniles, students, and many community members faced.

Within my school district, I have served on numerous committees focused on curriculum and student outcomes. These opportunities have continued my interest in ensuring educational access for all individuals, regardless of their background or level of understanding.

When it was time to pursue a postsecondary education, I chose to stay in Alaska because of the opportunities I could see. I am currently studying at the University of Alaska Fairbanks(UAF). This decision was the best I have made so far in my life, and I am proud to share that story of continued education in Alaska. As a student, I have had the opportunity to meet so many others, whom I call friends, and they range from all over Alaska, to the Lower 48, and some who come from other nations. Their stories create our future in Alaska.

I am honored to have been nominated to represent my peers across the university system, not only to lead them but also to lead Alaska's future and its education. I look forward to your questions on May 7th!

~Fernando E.                      Monday, May 5, 2025 8:13 AM