



Kodiak Island Borough School District

*Engaged in Learning.
Prepared for life.*

**Written Testimony in Support of Fernando Escobar for Student Regent Appointment
Submitted by Dr. Cyndy Mika, Superintendent
Kodiak Island Borough School District
To the Alaska State Legislature – House and Senate Education Committees
May 5, 2025**

Members of the Alaska State Legislature,

It is with great pride and enthusiasm that I submit this public testimony in strong support of Fernando Escobar's appointment as the next Student Regent for the University of Alaska Board of Regents.

Fernando is a 2024 graduate of Kodiak High School and a current student at the University of Alaska Fairbanks, where he continues to exemplify academic excellence, civic engagement, and student leadership. During his time in the Kodiak Island Borough School District, Fernando distinguished himself as a well-rounded scholar and a dedicated servant leader. He served four years in student council—including a term as student body president—and was inducted into the National Honor Society and Key Club for his strong academic record and commitment to service.

Fernando's leadership extended beyond student government. He served as the student representative on curriculum review committees and on the principal hiring committee for Kodiak High School. In both roles, he brought a thoughtful and informed student voice to critical decision-making processes that directly impacted the learning environment and school culture. His insight, maturity, and professionalism earned the respect of administrators, teachers, and fellow committee members alike.

In recognition of his outstanding community service, Fernando was named a 2024 Summer of Heroes honoree by Alaska Communications and the Boys & Girls Clubs of Southcentral Alaska. This prestigious award celebrates youth who make a significant difference in their communities. Fernando earned this recognition through his leadership in Kodiak Teen Court, where he served as a teen attorney, judge, and board president. His service demonstrated maturity, empathy, and an unwavering commitment to justice. His nominators noted his ability to balance compassion with accountability—qualities essential for a student representative to the Board of Regents.

Beyond the courtroom, Fernando also served on the United Youth Courts of Alaska Board of Directors as Kodiak's youth representative, offering educational outreach and peer-led justice services to his community. He has consistently modeled leadership rooted in integrity, civic responsibility, and a passion for equitable systems.

Since beginning his studies at UAF, Fernando has remained deeply engaged in student life. He is an active member of the Honors College and student government, where he works diligently with university administrators and fellow students to strengthen the campus community. His collaborative

approach, thoughtful leadership, and advocacy for student voice make him an ideal candidate to represent the diverse student body across the University of Alaska System.

Fernando is driven by principle and purpose. His ability to connect with peers, build consensus, and lead with humility will serve the Board of Regents—and the students of Alaska—exceptionally well. He exemplifies the promise of Alaska's next generation and represents the best qualities of student leadership.

On behalf of the Kodiak Island Borough School District, I respectfully urge you to confirm Fernando Escobar as the next Student Regent for the University of Alaska. He is a leader of remarkable character, and his voice will undoubtedly elevate and empower students across our state.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cyndy A. Mika". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of each name being capitalized and prominent.

Cyndy A. Mika, Ed.D.

Superintendent

Kodiak Island Borough School District