



The University of Alaska Board of Regents wrapped up a three-day meeting in rural Alaska last week, where they heard from numerous students stressing the importance of distance education.

In addition to a relatively small number of

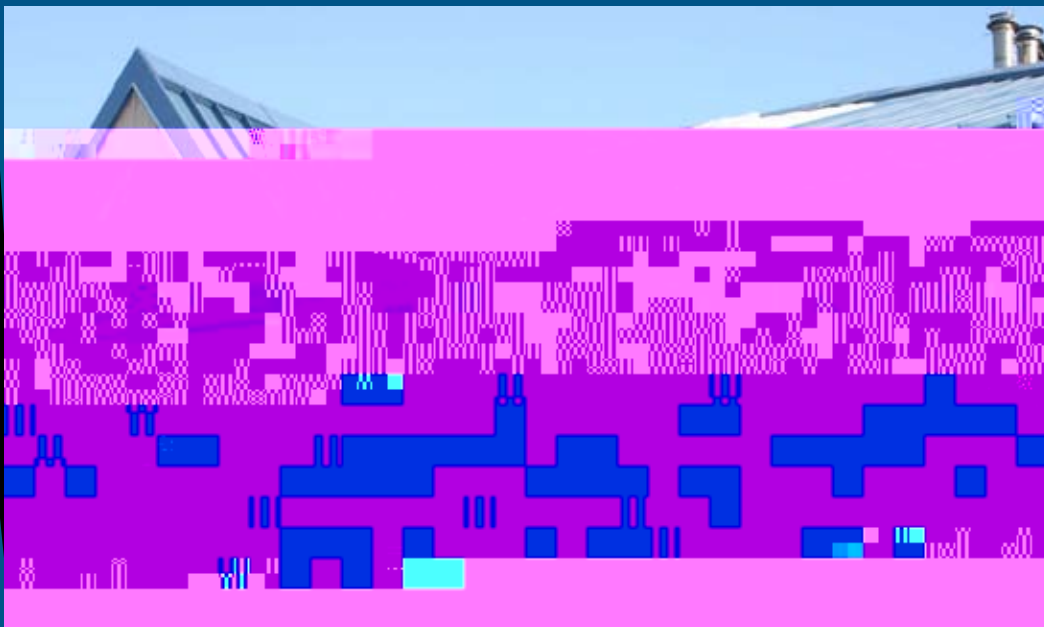
communities and their surrounding regions," Hughes said. "We heard from so many students who stressed, in particular, the importance of distance education and strengthening the community campus mission."

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A student in Kotzebue was a prime example. She is a mother of five, expecting another child, and regularly takes classes right in her hometown. She shared with the



Board Chair Mary K. Hughes stressed the importance of distance education at campuses off the road system, which is equally important to meeting the needs of the state's main population centers.

"Our community campuses provide such an important service for students in these

border communities. I can't imagine living and raising children in urban Alaska, yet we have access to higher education.

Lincoln Saito, director of the Chukchi Campus in Kotzebue, said the issue goes beyond each student's personal story. "The quality of our villages is really dependent on the education that we can deliver," Saito said.

In official business, regents approved a master's of science in applied environmental science and technology degree program

