



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."

here the importance of distance

higher education living in

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 said meeting at campuses off the road system is equally important to meeting in the state's main population centers.

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

board that she couldn't imagine living and raising her children in urban Alaska, yet values the 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

