

ALASKA POSTSECONDARY ACCESS AND COMPLETION NETWORK

BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION

FEBRUARY 24 – MARCH 3, 2021

Vincent Vilella (*Rural Alaska Seat Nominee*)

My name is Vincent Vilella and I am the Northwest AHEC Director located in Nome. My passion for health education started during my service as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Kenya '12 -'14 where I specialized in health education and HIV/AIDS outreach. After my service I moved to Quinhagak, AK where I taught a wonderful group of students for two years. I also coached wrestling (going to states both years!) and started a student Native Arts Program. While earning my M.Ed from the University of Pittsburgh, I was awarded a Fulbright Scholarship in '17 to develop cross-cultural curriculum between Ethiopia and the USA and make this available to educators globally. After receiving my master's degree my wife and I moved to Baton Rouge, LA for two years for her to finish her Teacher Certificate Program. In Louisiana I taught, and led the science department at a low SES, urban middle school. After my wife finished her program, we decided the best place for us to start a family was in Alaska and we promptly moved to Nome. As the Northwest AHEC Director I work to help Alaskans have better access to health education and to support individuals who want to enter or further their health care careers. I believe that health care education has the power to change the world; as AHEC Director, my goal is to support that change in Alaska.

