

# Qanglaagix Ethan Petticrew

## *Nikolski*

Ethan Petticrew has worked all over the state of Alaska as a teacher, administrator, and curriculum coordinator. His experiences and education have given him unique perspective into what makes the field of teaching such an important one; especially in a state as diverse as Alaska.

Mr. Petticrew is very proud of his Unangax heritage and works to make sure that all students' cultures are recognized in the classroom. When asked about why he became a teacher, he declared, "We should not feel ashamed for who we are or how our parents have dressed us. Our lifestyle, our language, our culture; anything that we do, we should not have to feel shame for that. [Realizing] that, that's when I decided to become a teacher." It is Ethan's desire that every child, regardless of their background, receive an appropriate and positive education without fearing that they will be looked down upon or mistreated because of their heritage.



*"If we're going to have any success as a people... then education is a big part of it."*

Debates surrounding the westernization of education in Alaska and the importance of maintaining Native traditions have ignited the political and education landscape for more than 50 years. Ethan sees a future where "our children should be able to walk in both worlds and do equally well in both of them." He goes on to say, "I think that we--as a country, as a state, as communities, as school districts--seriously need to look at how we're educating children, and we must change.

We cannot continue doing the same thing." According to Ethan, the only way progress will be made is by doing what is in the best interest of every child without exception.

At the end of the day, "...it's gotta come from us. We have to change this," Ethan says. By encouraging more Alaskan students to go into the field of education, he firmly believes that an increase in traditional knowledge and a respect for cultural values will be reflected. "If we're going to have any success as a people... then education is a big part of it."



Advisory Board of Cultural Knowledge Bearers

Future Educators of Alaska

University of Alaska Office of Academic Affairs

PO Box 755400 | Fairbanks, Alaska, 99775

907 450 8419 p | 907 450 8401 f | [www.FutureTeachersAlaska.org](http://www.FutureTeachersAlaska.org)