

Michael Jurasek

Targeted Rural Underserved Track

WWAMI
TRUST
UW MEDICINE

Alaska

Entering Class of 2017

TRUST seeks to provide a continuous connection between rural, small city underserved communities, medical education, and health professionals in our region. Our goal is to create a full-circle pipeline by guiding qualified students through a special curriculum that connects continuity communities in WWAMI to the University of Washington School of Medicine and its network of affiliated residency programs in an effort to help meet the workforce needs of the region.

Hello Kodiak,

My name is Michael Jurasek and I am delighted to be spending time in your community as a TRUST scholar. I am a 24-year-old from Trapper Creek, Alaska. I was raised on my family's homestead with my three siblings under the gaze of Denali and the Alaska Range. I've lived, learned, and worked in Alaska my entire life and I look forward to continuing this course in Kodiak as a TRUST student.

My beginnings in the healthcare field came with my diagnosis of leukemia as a toddler. Twenty-two years have passed since my treatment and I find myself cancer free and fascinated by medicine. I finished high school in Talkeetna and then completed my Bachelor of Arts in Economics at the University of Alaska Anchorage. I worked as a scribe in the Providence Alaska Medical Center's Emergency Department while in school and I later worked as a scribe and medical assistant at a urology clinic in Anchorage.

My experiences in healthcare to this point have exposed me to some of the unique challenges promoting wellness in Alaska. I am very interested in the ways that community based healthcare can help us overcome these challenges and that's why I am excited to learn about medicine in a tight-knit setting like Kodiak.

I stay in Alaska for all it has to offer and I look forward to learning about and exploring Kodiak. I enjoy hiking and cycling year-round. I grew up fishing the Susitna watershed in Southcentral Alaska and I understand the Silver fishing in Kodiak is unrivaled! I'm also a pilot/aviation nerd and I always appreciate a good flying story.

Thank you so much for welcoming me as a TRUST student. I look forward to learning everything about life and medicine that you're willing to share. My kindest regards go out to the community and island of Kodiak and I am happy to be joining you this summer!



Michael and his flight instructor after his first solo.



Michael and his girlfriend at Thunderbird Falls.

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