

# Letter from the Principal Investigator

May 2021

Hello to all,

As many of you may already know, I will be stepping down from my position as Principal Investigator of Alaska NSF EPSCoR.

This was not an easy decision. EPSCoR has been a part of my life for 14 years: I first served as the Education, Outreach and Diversity Manager, then as the Project Administrator and Associate Director, and now as Principal Investigator and Project Director. I have watched the organization grow and prosper and I'm proud of the contributions I've made to that success, as you should all be of your own.

But after much internal dialogue, serious reflection and discussion with my family, I've decided it's time to begin a new phase of my life that includes helping my parents as they age. It's one that involves leaving Alaska, and makes my role as PI not a tenable option.

Fortunately, there will be someone very capable taking my place: Coastal Margins co-lead Brenda Konar will take over as PI. I can't think of a better person to take the lead: Brenda is an experienced researcher and administrator already intimately familiar with Fire & Ice, and I have the utmost confidence in her ability to guide the project through its final two years. I must also add that the current central office team of Tara Borland, Tom Moran, Shannon Watson, and visualization experts Cassidy Phillips and Naomi Hutchquist are some of the very best the university has. This core team has maintained stability and kept EPSCoR running smoothly over the course of a very tough year.

I am grateful for the chance to work on so many different projects with such compassionate, smart and energetic people, and for the opportunities, challenges and support that I have received through this program and from each of you on the Fire & Ice team. Thank you for all that you do for the project and for making this such a great team. I plan to stay in touch and look forward to the many great things Fire & Ice will accomplish in the years ahead.

My best,



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