

Letter from the Principal Investigator

November 2022

Hello everyone,

“Glaciers to Gulf” is out the door!

After more than eight months of meetings, community visits, whiteboard brainstorming, writing, editing, and refining, a team of UA faculty hit the proverbial “send” button on August 22 to submit a proposal for the next phase of EPSCoR funding. Glaciers to Gulf is a five-year (2023-28), \$20 million proposal to examine how changing land-ocean connections alter the living ocean resources used in mariculture and subsistence harvests. We’re now playing the waiting game: we anticipate potential follow-up questions from the NSF within the next month, and a decision on funding the proposal will come in the spring.

It’s been a relief to be able to once again focus on Fire & Ice, which recently wrapped up its final full season of fieldwork and began its fifth and final project year. The chief focus of Year 5 will be analyzing and synthesizing all of the data we’ve gathered since 2018 and publishing the results. We’ve already put out close to 50 articles based on F&I research and I’m looking forward to seeing what sort of synthesis papers and products come out of us putting our collective heads together over the next year.

It’s also been a very busy few months in terms of EPSCoR events and activities. We handed out a final round of seed grants to students and faculty as well as 33 travel awards, which folks will be using to attend AGU, the Alaska Marine Science Symposium, and a raft of other events. We helped run workshops on implicit bias, science communication, grant-writing, facilitation, and even NFT’s. Led by our Student Ambassadors, we put together five presentations about career opportunities for UA students. You can find recordings of many of these events on the EPSCoR website – and while you’re there, be sure to check out Faces of STEM, a set of 10 interviews we put together to display the many routes people have taken to STEM careers.

A highlight of the coming month will be the EPSCoR National Conference, which will be held in Portland, Maine. I’m looking forward to seeing some of you there – and speaking of seeing people in person, if you’re on the UAF campus please feel free to join us on Monday mornings at 10 AM for our Snack Breaks, right outside the EPSCoR office suite on the second floor of WRRB. They’ve been a welcome opportunity to put names to faces and to interact with people outside of a Zoom screen.

And along those same lines, I’m happy to announce our 2023 All-Hands Meeting will take place in person, and we’re tentatively planning to hold it at the Alyeska Resort in Girdwood. So keep up the good work, and mark your calendars for February 8-9!

Sincerely,



Brenda Konar



NSF ESTABLISHED PROGRAM TO STIMULATE COMPETITIVE RESEARCH