

Letter from the Principal Investigator

November 2021

Hello everyone,

I've spent my first few months as EPSCoR Principal Investigator reflecting on the past, building on the present, and looking toward the future.

The past came in the form of our recent Virtual Site Visit, in which we presented our progress and findings to an NSF panel via Zoom. The event was a great opportunity for all of us to catch up on everything the Fire & Ice project has accomplished in the last three years, and it turns out it's a lot: just looking at the numbers, we've published 27 articles with almost 20 more in the works, procured almost \$14 million in outside grant funding, made all of our faculty and postdoc hires, and have involved more than 100 students in our research. We are proud of what we have accomplished and continue to build on these numbers.

Which brings us to the present. This has been a busy semester! On the research side, we've wrapped up a successful field season on both the Coastal Margins and Boreal Fires fronts, making up for any time we lost in 2020's disrupted summer. We started the semester with a HySpex workshop in October, helping educate people across the project about our hyperspectral capabilities and processes, and we'll be following that up with a workshop on data management later in the semester. We also had more than 100 people tune in to our Data Animation workshop (which you can now watch [online at our website](#)). It's also the time of the year for research awards: we just gave out 28 travel awards for a total of more than \$67,000, and we had 30 applicants in total for our research seed grants, DEW awards and visualization awards. We'll announce the winners of those awards later this week.

And as for the future, we're already laying the groundwork for the next EPSCoR research project, which would run from 2023-28. We've adopted a preliminary "Glaciers to Gulf" framework centered on coastal margins research, and are in the process of ranking pre-proposals and identifying researchers interested in working with us. We've held initial [webinars](#) (passcode: .@lEkY0U) for researchers and stakeholders to assist in finding research-community linkages. For more info feel free to reach out to our team: [Brenda Konar](#) and [Schery Umanzor](#) (UAF), [LeeAnn Munk](#) (UAA) and [Jason Fellman](#) (UAS).

It's been a hectic few months, and we're looking forward to enjoying a little break when the holidays come around. Speaking of which, here's wishing you all Happy Thanksgiving a little in advance!

Sincerely,



Brenda Konar



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