

# Letter from the Principal Investigator

May 2023

Hello everyone,

With the fifth and final year of Fire & Ice underway, our teams are wrapping up the results of their research and reviewing project goals. The culmination of the past five years' work is manifesting into a number of papers nearing completion, and project data is making its way into the data portal.

As with many projects, the COVID-19 pandemic had stymied critical activities of Fire & Ice. The past year fortunately has been more amenable to progress, but still, we are making up for lost time. To ensure that we thoroughly meet all the original goals of Fire & Ice, we will be extending the project for an additional year with a no-cost extension. An additional year will allow us to finalize research, maintain productive partnerships we've made, disseminate findings, and give more time to graduate students who were delayed.

We also look forward to the opportunity for our Data Visualization team to develop additional creative outreach projects for Fire & Ice. This month, they are releasing their animation, "Understanding a Space for Time Substitution and the Glacial Gradient" which demonstrates the research design behind our Coastal Margins sampling. Their Firewise Virtual Reality Game continues to be a hit with people of all ages at events. Check it out at the Arctic Research Open House, Thursday evening May 18!

Meanwhile, we are reviewing our plans for Glaciers to Gulf to clarify our intentions and strengthen connections across the project. We aim for our next project to be a truly relevant, community-lead, science-as-service initiative for Alaska. We are building in more deliberate opportunities for reciprocal dialog and holding the research accountable to community needs with the goal of producing salient, high quality project outcomes that are directly useful to Alaskans whose lives and livelihoods are entwined with gulf ecosystems.

It is an exciting time for solidifying goals. Thank you all for your persistent part in delivering our best!

PS - good luck to Science Olympiad winning team, Bazinga! from Discovery Peak Charter School at the national Science Olympiad in Wichita next week!

Sincerely,



Brenda Konar



NSF ESTABLISHED PROGRAM TO STIMULATE COMPETITIVE RESEARCH