

Letter from the Principal Investigator

May 2015

Hello to all,

Alaska EPSCoR is a large-scale, multifaceted research project with a lot of moving parts, and many of us are so caught up in our own work that it's difficult to see the big picture. For that reason, I'm going to start sending out a monthly email to our listserv giving everyone a brief update on what's been going on in the program over the last month.

Meetings. As this is the first email, my focus will be a bit broader. I came on as PI in January and soon headed off to our Midcourse Retreat in Anchorage. As we're now almost 3 years into our current 5-year research project, this was a chance to take stock of our progress and figure out what we need to do to complete our project to the satisfaction of ourselves and the National Science Foundation. It was a well-attended, extremely productive meeting, and we came away with a specific list of tasks we will need to complete to reach our research goals. As I write this we're all working on ticking boxes off the list.

In addition to the Midcourse Retreat, I've had the privilege of attending annual meetings for all three of our regional test cases; the Northern Test Case in February, Southcentral Test Case in April, and the Southeast Test Case earlier this month. I was impressed by the level of organization and enthusiasm I saw across the project and by the steps we've made in gathering physical and social science data across the state. Everyone has solid plans for pulling together their data streams in the next two years to create the sort of adaptation products needed by Alaska's communities.

Now there's a more important meeting coming up: in September EPSCoR leaders will travel to Washington, D.C. to describe our progress to a blue-ribbon NSF panel. It's called a Reverse Site Visit, and we expect to be put through the proverbial wringer. We've already started preparing in earnest, and we'll be pulling together information about all aspects of the project to make our pitch.

Products. Each year we're expected to report to the National Science Foundation what our research products are. Which has begged the question, what does the NSF consider a research product? Attached to this email is a list culled from NSF documentation. So when you're next asked to report on your products, you know what you can include.

For more information. The learning curve for EPSCoR has been steep, but I think I'm getting on top of things. I'm looking forward to using these emails to make sure everyone else stays informed as well. I'd also note that there's plenty of succinct and accessible information about the EPSCoR project on our website (www.alaska.edu/epscor) under "Program Structure," and I'd encourage everyone to give it a read if they're unclear on our focus.

Cheers,



Anupma Prakash



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