

Letter from the Principal Investigator

May 2016

Greetings to everyone,

The snowpack (such as it was this year) is gone, the midnight sun is upon us, and it's a great time to reflect on EPSCoR's busy spring even as we roll headfirst into summer.

Over spring break, nearly 1,200 researchers, students and policymakers from around the world descended on UAF for Arctic Science Summit Week and the Arctic Observing Summit. EPSCoR played an active role in both events: we supported the Model Arctic Council gathering, provided some travel support for AOS, and held three open houses for Decision Theater North and two showcases of the Arctic Adaptation Exchange Portal. Many Alaska EPSCoR researchers were also involved in the successful event in other ways, from presenting posters to volunteering.

The Southcentral Test Case held its annual meeting in Kenai last week, which is soon to be followed by a stakeholder gathering designed to augment test case findings about community adaptive strategies. Also last week, the Southeast Test Case held successful stakeholder meetings in Juneau with both glacier and marine tour operators. Both the Kenai and Juneau events featured presentations on communicating science by Tracey Manning, a visiting expert in the field, who also presented at a panel in Fairbanks. I attended both the Southcentral and Southeast events and was impressed by Manning's revealing presentation, as well as by the multiple strengths of both test cases that shone through in their organizational and outreach efforts.

Over the last month, we have also been busy awarding a series of Seed Grants and Alaska Native Engagement Grants. The former were awarded to 11 UA faculty teams with proposals for innovative research projects tied to our test cases. The latter awards have gone to seven UA teams with creative ideas to involve Alaska Native students in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) fields. Check our website or Facebook feed for lists of awardees.

The last days of March were occupied with the EPSCoR annual report to the NSF, which we sent in on deadline on April 1. It's always challenging pulling the report together, but it provides us with a useful snapshot of what we've done over the past year and what our priorities are for the next one. We made real progress in our fourth year and with just over a year left in the current award, we're in good shape to meet our research and outreach goals. We've got one more full field season to get there, and we're all gearing up to make sure it's a productive one.

Cheers,



Anupma Prakash



NSF EXPERIMENTAL PROGRAM TO STIMULATE COMPETITIVE RESEARCH