Alaska EPSCoR Native Engagement Grants

Alaska EPSCoR is pleased to announce the awarding of seven $20,000 grants to UA faculty and affiliate teams with proposals to engage Alaska Natives in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) fields:

• Olivia Lee, UAF Geophysical Institute, for "Engaging communities to share science and traditional knowledge on sea ice change." Lee is working with collaborators in Barrow to produce outreach materials about sea ice change.

• Carie Green, UAF Department of Education, for "Children's environmental identity development in an Alaska Native context." Green is studying how 60 children in Unalakleet make meaning of their natural environment.

• Dan Rinella, UAA Department of Biological Sciences, for "Decision library: Paving the way." Rinella's team is working with the Kenai'tze Tribe to create a library of traditional language, knowledge, and place name maps as well as EPSCoR research.

• Charlene Stern and Jessica Black, UAF College of Rural and Community Development, for "Examining Gwich'in resiliency and theory of change." Stern and Black are conducting interviews and focus groups with Gwich'in leaders to document adaptive capacity and perceptions of change.

• Matthew Sturm, UAF Geophysical Institute, for "Human perceptions and consequences of a changing permafrost landscape near Nuiqsut, Alaska." Sturm and his team are creating a Story Map, photo book and museum exhibit based on observations of local landscape change by Nuiqsut residents.

• Molly Tedesche, UAF College of Engineering and Mines, for "Climate-driven extent changes in perennial snowfields in Gates of the Arctic National Park & Preserve: Utilizing satellite data to investigate impacts on caribou and inform Native Alaskan subsistence users." Tedesche's team is conducting a science camp, public information meeting, and a citizen science workshop in Anaktuvuk Pass.

• Shannon Atkinson, UAF School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences, for "Project DEM BONES: Promoting higher education through culturally appropriate science interactions." Atkinson's team is continuing and expanding a project that uses the articulation of marine mammal skeletons as a teaching tool for high school students.

UAF Ph.D student Molly Tedesche and Anaktuvuk Pass high school student Joseph Nukapigak measure dissolved oxygen in Contact Creek during UAF's 2016 Anaktuvuk Pass Summer Science Camp.

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