

Letter from the Principal Investigator

June 2018

Hello to all,

As you may know, I'm once again moving on up: shortly after being named Dean of the UAF College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics, I accepted another promotion, this time to the position of UAF Provost. I'm tremendously excited about the new job, but I also intend to continue as Principal Investigator of Alaska ACE until the end of 2018. The same goes for my role as PI of the proposed "Fire and Ice" project, about which we are currently awaiting final word from the National Science Foundation. I am vested in the success and legacy of Alaska EPSCoR and will ensure that the transition to the next PI goes smoothly.

I also want to mention some other folks who are moving on: across the UA system, 13 graduate students and 24 undergrads with EPSCoR affiliations completed their degrees in spring 2018. Among the highlights, Trevor Grams and Tristan Craddick were named UAF's 2018 outstanding undergraduate students in Geography and Computer Science, respectively. Craddick (who was recently featured in Alaska Business Monthly) is interning this summer for Coupi, Inc., a UAF-based startup, while EPSCoR graduate student Cole Payne received a prestigious internship at NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center.

I'd be remiss if I didn't also highlight the recent efforts of researchers in our Northern Test Case, who are finishing up work in the Arctic community of Nuiqsut. In May, five test case researchers traveled to Nuiqsut to share results with 17 local residents representing four local organizations. The meeting followed up a similar event held in Fairbanks last June; both meetings presented opportunities for residents to learn about EPSCoR findings, but more importantly to offer a local perspective and guidance for future research.

Test case researchers are also finishing up a 34-page public report which centers on instrumented measurements of change around Nuiqsut, local observations of change, and comparisons between the two. We'll have it up on our website when it's complete. Also noteworthy is an enlightening Storymap made by Northern Test Case grad student Taylor Stinchcomb, who deployed listening devices along the Colville River on the North Slope to record aircraft noise, which can have an impact on caribou and hunting practices.

Sharing conclusions is a crucial last step in any research project, so kudos to the test case for their efforts on this front. As this project, and my time with EPSCoR, draws to a close, it's been exciting to watch the many ways our findings are making their way into the world.

Cheers,



Anupma Prakash



NSF ESTABLISHED PROGRAM TO STIMULATE COMPETITIVE RESEARCH