

Letter from the Principal Investigator

January 2019

Greetings to everyone,

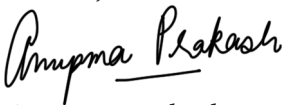
As you are already aware, I'm stepping down as Principal Investigator (PI) and Project Director of Alaska NSF EPSCoR to focus fully on my duties as UAF Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor. I am pleased to share that I have requested the National Science Foundation to approve Dr. Alice (Pips) Veazey as our next PI and Project Director. Most of you already know Pips well: she currently serves as Project Administrator and Associate Project Director, and was intimately involved in shaping our new "Fire and Ice" project. There's nobody out there better qualified for the job, and I'm delighted to be leaving EPSCoR in her capable hands. The request for Pips to assume the new job has been filed with the NSF, and we expect it to be approved once the shutdown is over.

Pips is far from the only person changing positions or moving on at EPSCoR. She will be replaced as Project Administrator by Faye Gallant. Faye comes to us from the UAF Office of Information Technology; she has degrees from UAF and UAS and nearly a decade of experience as a coordinator, administrator and analyst at various UAF offices. In addition, we have a new Fiscal Manager: Shannon Watson, a UAF grad with 17 years under her belt as a fiscal professional at the university. Shannon replaces Susie Frei, who left to take a new job in the Lower 48. Also departing is Education, Outreach and Diversity Manager Tania Clucas, who took a position in the office of new state representative Grier Hopkins. We wish Susie and Tania both great success in their new endeavors.

It's an appropriate time for new faces: as of January 1, the six-year-long Alaska Adapting to Changing Environments (ACE) project has officially concluded. Over that time, around 100 EPSCoR-supported graduate students and undergraduates finished their degrees; EPSCoR researchers published almost 100 peer-reviewed papers in multiple physical, biological and social disciplines; we actively engaged hundreds of stakeholders in our research projects in Juneau, Nuiqsut, and the Kenai Peninsula; and most significantly, we made substantial findings about the ways in which different communities adapt to change. One key set of results was recently shared with the world: please be sure to take a look at Local Knowledge and Science: Observation of Climate Change in the Nuiqsut Homelands, a summary of a central research effort of our Northern Test Case.

I'm proud of all of these accomplishments and grateful I could help to shepherd the project through to its conclusion. Meanwhile, its successor is just getting underway, and I anticipate "Fire and Ice" will have the same strong impacts on science and on the state of Alaska as ACE did. I'd like to extend my deepest thanks to everyone who contributed to the success of ACE, and I wish all the best to the researchers, staff and students who are building on EPSCoR's legacy through "Fire and Ice." Happy New Year, and good fortune to you all.

Cheers,



Anupma Prakash



NSF ESTABLISHED PROGRAM TO STIMULATE COMPETITIVE RESEARCH