

Letter from the Principal Investigator

August 2015

Hello to all,

Dipnets and charters, salmon and halibut – it feels like in the last month everyone I know has gone fishing.

Here at EPSCoR we're fishing, too. We've begun the planning process for Phase V of the Alaska NSF EPSCoR program, which would run for five years beginning in 2017. Last week I gathered up prominent researchers and administrators from the three main University of Alaska campuses and we spent a day brainstorming what the project could look like. It was a productive meeting, and we came up with a preliminary framework that would address pressing research questions while building Alaska's scientific capacity. You'll be hearing plenty more about the plan as it takes shape in preparation for its August 2016 submission deadline.

While many of our EPSCoR faculty have spent the last month in the field, our Education, Outreach and Diversity staff have been busy with educational projects. The second summer of our "Modern Blanket Toss" program saw Alaska Upward Bound students learning more about unmanned aerial vehicles and GIS systems, all with a goal of completing mapping projects in their home communities. And outreach personnel from our Southcentral Test Case served as instructors at the Janteh Science Camp, a weeklong K-12 activity put on by the Kenaitze Tribe on the Kenai Peninsula, and also represented EPSCoR at the Kenai River Festival. Our Social-Ecological Systems Ph.D cohort was also busy in July, heading to Washington D.C. for an in-depth policy tour.

As for my summer? Well, one of my goals as a fledgling Principal Investigator has been to meet personally with the many faculty and staff that keep the organization running. To that end, soon I'll be travelling down to UAA and Kenai Peninsula College for meetings with EPSCoR folks there. I've gotten most peoples' names down by now, but I'm still working on attaching faces to some of them, and this will help me along.

As we head into fall, here's hoping your lines are jumping and your freezers are full for the months ahead.

Cheers,



Anupma Prakash



NSF EXPERIMENTAL PROGRAM TO STIMULATE COMPETITIVE RESEARCH