

Letter from the Principal Investigator

December 2015

Hello to all,

It's 7 degrees below zero outside as I write this, and snow has swathed the birches behind my office. Winter is a great time to focus on getting work done, and it's been a productive few months at Alaska EPSCoR as we head into the holiday season.

We've made real progress in our efforts to improve visualization capacity at the University of Alaska. Our new Decision Theater North (DTN) facility at UAF is up and running and will have an official opening early next year. We handed out four awards to UA teams to build visualizations for the DTN and for the UAA Planetarium and Visualization Theater, with the goal of having content to show off during Arctic Science Summit events in March 2016. We also had around 90 attendees at our "Data to Decisions" workshop in November, where they learned about methods and processes to build their data into visualizations.

In fact, it's been a fall of meetings all around. In October we held a successful Alaska EPSCoR annual meeting in Anchorage, and in November several Alaska EPSCoR representatives attended the National NSF EPSCoR meeting in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, where the theme was "Collaboration: Advancing the Role of Science in the Service of Society." We all came out of it with new ideas and connections and a strong sense of how our project fits into the grander framework of the national EPSCoR program. Also in November, the Northern Test Case was a co-sponsor of a "Co-Management Symposium" on the UAF campus, which served a forum for Alaska Native leaders and agencies to discuss sharing management of fish and wildlife resources. The symposium included a full day dedicated to co-production of knowledge, with discussions and work sessions on building community-university research partnerships and on research processes for knowledge co-production.

Finally, as we enter into the next calendar year, we're also making plans to enter the next phase of EPSCoR research. Our call for proposals for Phase V of our research resulted in a full 54 submissions. This is more than we expected and we're excited to see how many members of the UA community want to be involved in our research. We're currently in the process of poring over the proposals in order to decide which ones would best fit together into a cohesive research proposal that addresses Alaska's needs.

Winter break is swiftly approaching. I hope all of you take the time to relax and recharge for the busy year ahead.

Cheers,



Anupma Prakash



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