

# Letter from the Principal Investigator

February 2017

Greetings to everyone,


Good news: it took almost 30 years, but EPSCoR is no longer experimental. By a recent act of Congress, we are now known as the Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research. The name change is an acknowledgement that the EPSCoR program, which was formed in 1978, has become an integral and ongoing part of our national science infrastructure. In those 29 years, the NSF branch of the program has grown from five initial states to a current total of 27 states and territories, each of which qualify for the program because they receive less than 0.75% of total National Science Foundation funding. The renaming is a vote of confidence in EPSCoR.

And our Alaskan researchers continue to take advantage of national EPSCoR opportunities. UAF Assistant Professor of Fisheries Peter Westley just submitted a proposal for a “Track-2” award, through which his research team would partner with researchers in Montana to study how genomic variation contributes to the invasiveness of freshwater fishes in diverse environments. There are also three UAF researchers preparing to apply for “Track-4” funding for collaborative visits to research centers across the country.

Meanwhile, we’re wrapping up our “Track-1” project, “Alaska Adapting to Changing Environments.” As more and more information come in from our research, this is an excellent opportunity to remind everyone that we’re continually uploading new datasets and results into our publicly accessible data catalog, located at <http://epscor.alaska.edu/search>.

Finally, kudos to Southcentral Test Case Co-lead Megan Krupa, who recently received the “Best Practices: Alaskans and Salmon” award from Salmon Connect, a partnership of Alaskan organizations that seeks “to engage and connect a broad spectrum of Alaskan civil society interests around the future of wild salmon and Alaskans.” Krupa was honored for her EPSCoR research, which focuses on salmon fisheries and communities on the Kenai Peninsula. The award stands as recognition of her fine work as well as the contributions we at EPSCoR have been making to Alaskan research and knowledge in our current project.

Cheers,

  
Anupma Prakash



NSF ESTABLISHED PROGRAM TO STIMULATE COMPETITIVE RESEARCH