

Letter from the Principal Investigator

June 2015

Hello to all,

Summer's here and so is more smoke than we can handle. But that hasn't stopped our EPSCoR researchers from heading out into the field for summer research. This year we're working hard on collecting social science data, which is being funneled into our ongoing efforts to integrate our research across disciplines and test cases.

Summer is also construction season, and we're soon to break ground on our exciting new Decision Theater facility at UAF, which will have a bank of high-definition monitors connected directly to UAF supercomputers. We're also making improvements to the Planetarium and Visualization Theater at UAA. The goal of these projects is to provide cutting-edge immersive visual environments to facilitate dialogue and decision-making by agencies, industry, and academia.

We got a chance to show off our Decision Theater plans and our Augmented-Reality Sandbox on June 22 and 23, when NSF Director France Cordova and other key personnel paid visits to UAF and UAA. A month earlier, myself and other EPSCoR leaders paid a visit to Washington, D.C. for annual EPSCoR meetings, where we learned about some of the NSF's new research priorities, including the food-water-energy nexus, risk and resilience, and the BRAIN neuroscience initiative. There's a wealth of information about the subject at <http://tinyurl.com/q7wnyzj>

Finally, I have some exciting news: we've completed the last of the six faculty hires planned for our current research project. Elaine Drew, an applied medical anthropologist, has accepted a position with the UAF Department of Anthropology and has already begun work in Fairbanks. Drew came here from the Medical College of Wisconsin, where she most recently worked on cancer and diabetes prevention projects with different cultural communities across the state. We're thrilled to have her on board and look forward to the contributions she will make in the last two years of the project.

So, in short: Alaska may be smoldering right now, but here at EPSCoR we've got all of our fires under control. Enjoy the heart of your summer.

Cheers,



Anupma Prakash



NSF EXPERIMENTAL PROGRAM TO STIMULATE COMPETITIVE RESEARCH