

Letter from the Principal Investigator

March 2018

Greetings to everyone,

I write to you today from a new perspective – literally. Due to my recent promotion to Interim Dean of the UAF College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics, I now occupy a corner office in UAF's Reichardt Building. Of course I still enjoy a similar view of the lovely birch forest behind campus, so things perhaps haven't changed *that* much.

I also have another personnel change to report: The new head of the National Science Foundation Office of Integrative Activities, which administers all NSF EPSCoR programs, is Dr. Loretta Moore. She replaces Dr. Denise Barnes, who had served with EPSCoR since 2007. We had the privilege of meeting Dr. Moore last month in Washington D.C. and we're all excited to work with her. Her background is in computer science and she also brings special strengths in the areas of diversity and cyberinfrastructure. She plans to roll out her vision for the future of NSF EPSCoR at our next meeting in May.

Meanwhile, we await word on the fate of our proposed "Fire and Ice" project; based on past experience, we expect to hear around mid-April. In the meantime we are wrapping up activities of our current Alaska ACE project. ACE researcher Eran Hood was the speaker last month at a Science for Alaska lecture here in Fairbanks, discussing the effect of shrinking glaciers on Alaska's coastal ecosystems. In February, researcher Jim Powell co-led a meeting of the Arctic Urban Sustainability Indicators Project at UAF, at which Interior Alaska elected officials and local experts discussed potential indicators and how they could support future planning and outreach.

We've also had a recent string of excellent publications resulting from ACE research. Powell was published in *Fisheries* - continuing a strong run of EPSCoR articles in that journal – and other faculty have been published in *Remote Sensing*, *Water Resources Research*, *Society & Natural Resources*, *Regional Environmental Change*, *Estuaries and Coasts*, *The American Scholar*, and many other quality journals. I'm especially pleased to report some publications by EPSCoR students: UAF graduate student Cole Payne was published in *Remote Sensing* for a study of the Colville River on the North Slope, and former UAA grad student Molly McCarthy has been accepted for publication in the *Journal of Paleolimnology* for her study of historic salmon populations on the Kenai Peninsula.

It's great to see the fruits of our years of hard work, even as we look forward to our next project. As for me, my new job means new responsibilities, but I am cutting down on teaching and other research commitments to make time for the new position and for Alaska EPSCoR. I will continue to lead the project as we conclude our current slate of research and prep for the next one.

Cheers,



Anupma Prakash



NSF ESTABLISHED PROGRAM TO STIMULATE COMPETITIVE RESEARCH