

# Letter from the Principal Investigator

## September 2015

Hello to all,

The leaves changing color outside my window are a daily reminder that here in Alaska, change can happen fast. That's the case here at EPSCoR, where we're wrapping up a successful summer that feels like it just started.

I'd first like to congratulate EPSCoR hire and Northern Test Case co-lead Todd Brinkman, who has received two awards from the NASA Arctic Boreal Vulnerability Experiment (NASA ABoVE) program. Brinkman is principal investigator on a project to work with rural residents to map and study environmental disturbances that impact their access to subsistence resources. He's also co-PI on a project (led by EPSCoR Northern Test Case affiliate Laura Prugh) to study changing vegetation and snow conditions in the Alaskan alpine and their effect on Dall sheep. Northern Test Case affiliate Ken Tape is also a collaborator on a NASA ABoVE project studying changes in Arctic shrub abundance.

While EPSCoR's new decision theater nears completion, we've been stepping up our efforts to improve visualization capabilities at the UA. To that end, EPSCoR sent a contingent to Maine for the 2015 Gordon Research Conference on Visualization in Science and Education, where they learned about the latest techniques and methods in the field. Now EPSCoR will offer its own discourse on the subject in the form of a visualization workshop to be held on the UAF campus on November 16-17, which will include a pair of keynote speakers from the Maine conference. We'll have more information on that as the schedule firms up.

In larger news, we're now well into the fourth year of EPSCoR's current five-year project, and the deadline to submit our next proposal is fast approaching. We've begun discussing the form that the new phase will take, and we're soliciting input from across the UA system. See the attachment for more information about how you can help shape the next half-decade of Alaska EPSCoR research and outreach.

It's been exciting to watch students filing back onto campus, and I hope you're similarly excited about EPSCoR as our work continues into the new academic year.

Cheers,



Anupma Prakash



NSF EXPERIMENTAL PROGRAM TO STIMULATE COMPETITIVE RESEARCH