



2021 ANNUAL REPORT



Dear ARCUS Members, Friends, and Colleagues,

At the end of another year of disruption and uncertainty, we want to take the time to appreciate all that we have to celebrate and be proud of.

We embraced all-virtual gathering spaces this year and held events on Virtual Speed Networking, Arctic Research Collaboration, Engaging Rural and Alaska Native Undergraduates and Youth in Arctic STEM, Community and Citizen Science in the Far North, and others. As you'll see in this report, we continued to deliver projects and products across the spectrum of our communication, research coordination, and education efforts. We assisted organizations like the Inuit Circumpolar Council Alaska and Kawerak, Inc. to help make their virtual meetings the best they could be. We leaned into designing activities that were accessible to those across disciplines and perspectives, and experimented with ways to embody a spirit of "come as you are" in all that we do.

As we end this year, we know that many of us are reflecting on how we can take the lessons of the year and continue to build and nurture this wonderful community that is working together to advance Arctic research and education. On behalf of the ARCUS staff, Board, Members, and Partners, please know that we are grateful for your ongoing perseverance, your creativity, and your many contributions to advancing collaborative Arctic research and education efforts during a challenging time.

We look forward to continuing our work with you in the new year and know that all we've been doing together to adapt and grow in 2021 will continue to strengthen future Arctic research community endeavors for many years to come.

Sincerely,

**David Cairns** 

**Board President, ARCUS** 

David M. Cim

Helen Wiggins,

Executive Director, ARCUS

Cover photo credit: Jennifer Baldacci (PolarTREC 2017), Courtesy of ARCUS

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# STRATEGIC GOALS & OBJECTIVES (2020-2025)

### **Goal 1: Facilitate and Support Arctic Research Collaboration**

- **Objective 1.1:** Provide Resources and Promote Innovative Practices for Collaborative and Interdisciplinary Research
- Objective 1.2: Connect and Support the Arctic Research Community Around Shared Topics of Interest
- **Objective 1.3:** Partner with Other Arctic Organizations to Catalyze and Broaden Networking Opportunities
- Objective 1.4: Promote Exchange, Collaboration, and Co-Production Between the ARCUS Community with US-Based Arctic Indigenous Community Members

# Goal 2: Enhance the Effectiveness of Arctic Research Communication

- Objective 2.1: Increase Information Exchange and Knowledge Sharing Within the ARCUS Community
- Objective 2.2: Amplify and Share Arctic-Related Research, Knowledge, and Issues with Diverse Audiences
- Objective 2.3: Work with ARCUS Members to Prioritize and Address the Critical Needs of the ARCUS Community
- Objective 2.4: Build Awareness of and Cultivate Group Identity Between ARCUS, our Members, and our Partners

# Goal 3: Educate K-16 Students and Formal and Informal Educators about the Arctic, and Engage them in Arctic Research

- Objective 3.1: Develop Professional Training Opportunities for Arctic Educators
- Objective 3.2: Champion Culturally Responsive Arctic Education and Outreach
- Objective 3.3: Foster Arctic Citizen Science and Community-Based Research
- **Objective 3.4:** Encourage Arctic Youth Involvement in Arctic Research Activities and Learning

### **Goal 4: Secure Resources to Support the ARCUS Mission**

- Objective 4.1: Expand and Sustain a Diverse and Inclusive ARCUS Membership
- Objective 4.2: Strengthen ARCUS' Organizational Capacity
- Objective 4.3: Diversify ARCUS' Funding Sources
- Objective 4.4: Grow Reserves to Adapt and Respond to New Opportunities

# **ARCUS STAFF**



Helen Wiggins Executive Director helen@arcus.org Wasilla, AK



Kristi Weiss-Ackels Accountant kristi@arcus.org Fairbanks, AK



Ronnie Owens Information Technology Director ronnie@arcus.org Bellingham, WA



Joed Polly Video Production & Content Manager joed@arcus.org Somerville, MA



Kuba Grzeda Project Coordinator kuba@arcus.org Fairbanks, AK



Betsy Turner-Bogren Project Manager betsy@arcus.org Fairbanks, AK



Lisa Sheffield Guy Project Manager lisa@arcus.org Pescadero, CA





B. Zeb Polly Systems Administrator zeb@arcus.org Fairbanks, AK



Judy Fahnestock Project Coordinator judy@arcus.org Madbury, MA



Stacey Stoudt Project Manager stacey@arcus.org Anchorage, AK



Janet Warburton Education Project Manager warburton@arcus.org Anchorage, AK



Vanessa Raymond ICC Alaska Information Archivist & Data Advisor brit@arcus.org Fairbanks, AK



Brit Myers
Project Manager
brit@arcus.org
Vashon, WA



# ARCUS BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Audrey Taylor
University of Alaska Anchorage
artaylor@uaa.alaska.edu
Term End: 2022



Term End: 2022



Adrian Gall
ABR, Inc
agall@abrinc.com
Term End: 2022

Cheryl Rosa
US Arctic Research Commission
crosa@arctic.gov

Term End: 2022





Timo Koivurova
University of Lapland
timo.koivurova@ulapland.fi
Term End: 2022

Diane Hirshberg (Treasurer)
University of Alaska Anchorage
dbhirshberg@alaska.edu

Term End: 2023





Kaare Erickson Ikaagun Engagement, LLC sikuaq@ikaagun.com Term End: 2023

Jasper Hardesty Sandia National Laboratories joharde@sandia.gov Term End: 2021





Julie Raymond-Yakoubian (Member-at-Large) Kawerak, Inc. juliery@kawerak.org Term End: 2021

Victoria Herrmann Georgetown University vh159@georgetown.edu Term End: August 2021





Pips Veazey
University of Maine
alice.veazey@maine.edu
Term End: 2023

Craig Fleener
Alaska Tribal Broadband &
11th Air Force
chizhur@gmail.com
Term End: 2021





Peter Webley (Secretary) University of Alaska Fairbanks pwwebley@alaska.edu Term End: 2020

# **ARCUS MEMBER INSTITUTIONS**



Represented By:

David Cairns, cairns@tamu.edu Julie Loisel, julieloisel@tamu.edu

www.tamu.edu



Represented By:

Stephen Déry, stephen.dery@unbc.ca Gary Wilson, gary.wilson@unbc.ca

www.unbc.ca



Represented By:

Nalân Koc, nalan.koc@npolar.no

www.npolor.no/en



Represented By:

arja.rautio@oulu.fi Kirsi Latola,

kirsi.latola@uarctic.org



Represented By:

Cheryl Rosa, crosa@arctic.gov John Farrell, jfarrell@arctic.gov

www.arctic.gov



www.uarctic.org

Represented By:

Matthew Jull, mjull@virginia.edu Howard Epstein, hee2b@virginia.edu

www.virginia.edu



Represented By:

Gunhild Hoogensen Gjørv, gunhild.hoogensen.gjorv@uit.no Alf Håkon Hoel. alf.hakon.hoel@uit.no

www.en.uit.no/startsida



Represented By:

Carin Ashjian, cashjian@whoi.edu



Represented By:

Nagruk Harcharek, nagruk.harcharek@uiccs.com

www.uicalaska.com/arctic-experts/science-support



Represented By:

Robert Holmes, rmholmes@woodwellclimate.org Anna Liljedahl, aliljedahl@woodwellclimate.org

www.woodwellclimate.org



Represented By:

Diane Hirshberg, dbhirshberg@alaska.edu UNIVERSITY of ALASKA ANCHORAGE

www.uaa.alaska.edu



Represented By:

Brian Vasel, brian.vasel@noaa.gov Christine Smith,

christine.smith@noaa.gov

www.gml.noaa.gov



Represented By:

Melanie Bahnke, contact@kawerak.org Julie Raymond-Yakoubian,

juliery@kawerak.org



Represented By:

Shauna BurnSilver, shauna.burnsilver@asu.edu Stephanie Pfirman, spfirman@asu.edu

www.asu.org

www.kawerak.org

# **ARCUS MEMBER INSTITUTIONS**



Represented By:

Adrian Gall, agall@abrinc.com Gerald Frost, jfrost@abrinc.com

www.abrinc.com



Represented By:

Robert Orttung, rorttung@gwu.edu Dmitry Streletskiy, strelets@gwu.edu

www.gwu.edu



Represented By:

Sheyna Wisdom, wisdom@aoos.org

www.aoos.org



Represented By:

Nettie LaBelle-Hamer, nettie.labellehamer@alaska.edu

Peter Webley, pwwebley@alaska.edu



Represented By:

Timo Koivurova, timo.koivurova@ulapland.fi

Johanna Ikävalko

johanna.ikavalko@ulapland.fi



www.rshu.ru/eng

Represented By:

Marya Rozanova-Smith, marya.rozanova@gmail.com Valeriy Mikheev, v.mikheev-

rshu@yandex.ru

www.arcticcentre.org



Represented By:

Lisa Busch, lbusch@sitkascience.org Melissa Hamilton.

mhamilton@sitkascience.org



Institute of Earth, Ocean, and Atmospheric Sciences

www.rutgers.edu

Represented By:

Åsa Rennermalm,

asa.rennermalm@gmail.com

www.sitkascience.org



Represented By:

Jack Hébert, jack@cchrc.org Bruno Grunau, bruno@cchrc.org

www.cchrc.org



Sandia National Represented By:

Jasper Hardesty, Laboratories joharde@sandia.gov

Mark Ivey, mdivey@sandia.gov

www.sandia.gov



Represented By:

Alan Leonardi,

aleonardi@oceanleadership.org Allison Hays,

ahays@oceanleadership.org

www.oceanleadership.org



UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON Represented By:

Ed Blanchard,

ed@atmos.washington.edu Craig Lee, craiglee@uw.edu

www.washington.edu



Represented By:

Melody Brown Burkins, melody.b.burkins@dartmouth.edu Ross Virginia,

ross.virginia@dartmouth.edu

www.dickey.dartmouth.edu/arctic-environment

Learn more & become part of the ARCUS community at: https://www.arcus.org/arcus/

member-information

# ARCUS PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

### **National Science Foundation Office of Polar Programs**

Many ARCUS activities are supported by the National Science Foundation's Office of Polar Programs under Cooperative Agreement No. PLR-1304316 and Cooperative Agreement No. PLR-1928794.

#### Association of Polar Early Career Educators (APECS)

ARCUS and APECS have a Memorandum of Understanding that acknowledges the joint commitment of both organizations to the professional development of early career polar researchers. Additionally, APECS serves as a partner in the newly funded Early Career Travel Awards.

#### **Eskimo Walrus Commission**

The Eskimo Walrus Commission partners with ARCUS to produce the Sea Ice for Walrus Outlook (SIWO). SIWO is a resource for Alaska Native subsistence hunters, coastal communities, and others interested in sea ice and walrus.

#### National Weather Service - Alaska Region

The National Weather Service - Alaska Region partners with ARCUS to produce the Sea Ice for Walrus Outlook (SIWO).

### Alaska Native Science & Engineering Program (ANSEP)

ARCUS partners with ANSEP by serving as a host to ANSEP Summer Bridge students (high school graduates) or Fellows (University of Alaska Fairbanks undergraduate students).

### Alaska Natural Resource & Outdoor Education Association (ANROE)

ARCUS and ANROE have a Memorandum of Agreement that establishes a partnership to collaborate on the development and delivery of natural resource education content and resources.

#### Interagency Arctic Research Policy Committee (IARPC)

ARCUS administers NSF funding to the Interagency Arctic Research Policy Committee's secretariat. Additionally, ARCUS works with the IARPC secretariat to support community-driven research initiatives emerging from IARPC Collaboration Teams.

#### Inuit Circumpolar Council - Alaska (ICC-Alaska)

ICC-Alaska is a co-lead with ARCUS on the Arctic Indigenous Scholars Program, which creates opportunities for Indigenous scholars to educate and inform policy- and decision-makers in Washington, DC Additionally, ARCUS has detailed a staff member to ICC-Alaska to forge stronger partnerships and add capacity at the hosting organization.

#### **Smithsonian Arctic Studies Center**

The Smithsonian Arctic Studies Center provides D.C. host support for the ARCUS Indigenous Scholars Program and hosts full-day visits from the scholars.

#### Polar Educators International (PEI)

ARCUS provides in-kind secretariat support for PEI, which is an international professional network for everyone who educates in, for, and about the polar regions.

### **Anchorage Museum**

The Anchorage Museum and others have partnered with ARCUS to host the Anchorage Arctic Research Summit.



























# **COMMITTEE VOLUNTEERS &** INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS



### **COMMUNITY & CITIZEN SCIENCE CONFERENCE** STEERING COMMITTEE Annette Bombosch Kaare Sikuaq Ericks

Kaare Sikuag Erickson Roberta Tuurrag Glenn Katie Spellman Lisa Sheffield Guy Janet Warburton

Dennis Davis **Audrey Taylor** Kuba Grzeda Erica Chenoweth ARCUS is deeply grateful to the many individuals who supported our efforts in 2021 through countless volunteer hours. membership dues contributions. & active participation in ARCUS programs and events!

### **ARCUS MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE**

Adrian Gall James Hemsath **Brit Mvers** Timo Koivurova Audrey Taylor Jasper Hardesty Katherine Schexneider

Victoria Herrmann Sasha Leidman Helen Wiggins

### EARLY CAREER AWARDS COMMITTEE

Lavanya Ashokkumar Claire Griffin Josephine-Mary Sam Lisa Sheffield Guv

Jiake Zhou Helen Wiggins Julie Loisel Stacey Stoudt

### POLARTREC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Regina Brinker Sarah Crowley Dieuwertje Kast

Janet Warburton Judy Fahnestock Dominique Richardson Alex Éilers

Gary Wesche Marilyn Sigman

### ANNUAL MEETING COMMITTEE

**David Cairns** Jim Hemsath **Brit Mvers** 

Audrey Taylor Sasha Leidman Helen Wiggins Kuba Grzeda Katherine Schexneider

### **2021 ARCUS INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS**

Anne Kari Meisingset Rebecca Atwood Victoria Herrmann Danielle Verna Katherine Schexneider Julie Raymond-Yakoubian Stanislav Ksenofontov Kaisa Holloway Cripps Muhammad Asaduzzaman Larry Hurst Michael Weintraub Bernadette Engelstad Karen Grosskreutz Nathalie Ylenia Triches Renée Crain Wagner Somayajulu Dhulipala Cana Uluak Itchuaqiyaq Kaare Sikuaq Erickson Temenuzhka Spasova Ayumi Fujisaki-Manome Michael Mackiewicz Anne Kari Meisingset Hannah Holland-Moritz Seth Campbell Robert Höllister Diane Hirshberg Jean Balestrery Jennifer Schmidt Edward Kaufmann Patricia Johnston Gabriella Gricius Marian Leerburger

Juliana Wilczynski

Evelyn Strombom

Haio Eicken Múrielle Nagy David Cairns Craig Fleener Lissa Hughes Randy Kee Michelle Mack Dave Grant Steven Lamy Talor Stone Sarah Johnson Peppi Croft Helena Edelson **David Harning** Camila de Souza Gaurav Madan Victoria Miles Craig Dorman Acacia Johnson Jessica Miller Steven Lee Tanguy Sandré Olivia Lee Kate Ruck Pips Veazey Hailong Liu Min Liew **Talor Stone** Suguang Xiao Jason Zottola **Grant Gunn Brit Myers** 

Rolf Rødven Matt Heavner Jeffrev Mar Ming Xiao Adrian Gall Eric Wilkman Ann McElvein Daniel Otto Ryan Naylor Austen Whitney Camila de Souza Maher Al-Badri Jessica Dutton Rae Cook Anna Berge Xiaohang Ji Gisele Arruda Igor Appel Ellen Frye Thomas Farrugia Marta Kumle Yvette Spitz Min Liew Asma Shethwala Lavi Appel Christopher Ivins Kimberly Rand Hailong Liu Jill Prewitt Holly Kent Carol Janzen Darcy Dugan Stacy Porter

# INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH

Holly Hapke Mia Bennett Martin Jeffries **Brit Myers** 

Liz Weinberg Helen Wiggins Pips Veazey Kuba Grzeda Canal Uluak Itchuaqiyaq Julie Raymond-Yakoubian

Caitlyn Wylie Peter Webley Gisele Arruda Karl Huemmrich

Lenore Grenoble Emre Hakguder Asad Sabbah Hilary McMahan Jessica Kantarovich Madeline Snigaroff Suzanne Green Forrest Schoessow Dawn Marie Lemke James Bradley Armina Soleymani Mason Stockstill Kimberly Ohnemus Ashok Pandev Kabiraj Khatiwada Inci Güneralp Stephen Vavrus **Emily Maxwell** Katherine Reedy Mary Gibbons Kathryn Lavelle Cody Johnson Thian Yew Gan Celso Ferreira Erica Ferencik

Savannah Peery Joshua Butterićk Peng Lian Jessie Mever Saskia Hirsch Manwei Chan **Audrey Taylor** Lori Petrauski Laura Zanotti Lorene Lynn Julie Lina Leonid Yurganov Joyanne Hamilton Kyle Lambert Karl Huemmrich Eda Ayaydin Michelle Leclair Monika Sikand Frank Zhu Karl Newvear Bruce Main James Anderson Molly McCammon Madison Kluge

Lavi Appel

Juliana Wilczynski Prasad Padalkar Millie Lambert Timothy Pasch Timo Koivurova Michelle Ritchie Sheyna Wisdom Jim Costopulos Nadya Yanakieva Suresh Immaneni Nadya Yanakieva



# ARCUS COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT



Building Community in Arctic Research: Communication, Research Support, and Multi-Knowledge System Integration

A three-year NSF-funded Cooperative Agreement (2019–2022; Award # OPP-1928794) supports the work we do to nurture collaborations across disciplines, sectors, and perspectives; and to broaden participation across the Arctic research enterprise.

ARCUS Cooperative Agreement activities focus on:

- Research community support, including fostering community-driven research initiatives through virtual tools, and support of early-career researchers;
- Networking activities, including network analysis and community-building events for the Arctic research community:
- Collaboration with Indigenous communities and knowledge systems, including integration of Indigenous knowledge with weather and ice predictions, and support for Indigenous scholars of all career levels;
- Arctic research communications and outreach; and
- Support of the Interagency Arctic Research Policy Committee (IARPC).

The added value of these research support functions—effective collaboration management, networking, communications, and outreach—is key to successful interdisciplinary research.

### WHAT KINDS OF ACTIVITIES DOES THE COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT SUPPORT?



Arctic Community Networking



Arctic Indigenous Scholars Program



Early Career Conference Awards



Arctic Citizen Science Virtual Conference



Research Incubation Activities



Communications Tools



Alaska Native Organization Partnerships



Arctic Research Seminar Series



Sea Ice for Walrus Outlook



Arctic Research Day Events

# COMMUNITY & CITIZEN SCIENCE IN THE FAR NORTH CONFERENCE

The Community & Citizen Science in the Far North virtual conference (#CCSFarNorth) was held 5-7 October to provide an opportunity for researchers, community members, and other practitioners of community and citizen science in the circumpolar Arctic to meet and share knowledge. A conference white paper, archived conference presentations, and a growing community of practice will continue developing a shared knowledge base and advance our community's long-term strategic objective to foster Arctic citizen science and community-based research.





attendees

124



# of presentations

42



Louise Mercer @louisemercer\_ Oct 8
I couldn't think of a better way to start my PhD than attending
#CCSFarNorth So many helpful insights and questions to think about! #CitizenScience
#CommunityScience #Arctic
@ArcticResearch

Q1 171 04 000



@ArcticResearch #CCSFarNorth
#CommunityScience #Arctic

13.4 © 10 000

EricaLynn Chenoweth @Eric... Oct 7
It's the last panel of #CCSFarNorth
Day 3. Don't let the sharing end! So
much work to do. Chin'an Thank
you panelists discussing the
challenge of The Sea Ice for Walrus
Outlook: Twelve Years of
Partnership to Support Bering Strait
Communities @ArcticResearch
#Arctic #Ciffsci



Q t]2 07 000

#### ##CCSFarNorth

Lisa Sheffield Guy @lisashef... Oct 7
These awesome kid scientists from 
#Shishmaref are the highlight of 
#CCSFarNorth. Thank you, Roben 
Itchoak!

Rocking panel on Community
Engagement on Air Quality and
Clouds through @NASAGO, @NASA
and REACH. Youth, elder
knowledge and wisdom, and
research scientists together!
#CCSFarNorth Day 3 and
Shishmaref Northern Lights
students alongside NASA. #CitSci

EricaLynn Chenoweth @EricaChe...



More information: https://www.arcus.org/meetings/2021/arctic-cc

# EARLY CAREER CONFERENCE FUNDING AWARDS Congratulations To: Jillian Sanders (Texas A&M

This ARCUS Early Career Conference Funding Award supports the participation of US-based, early career researchers in meetings and events relevant to Arctic research, with a focus on underrepresented minorities (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color; BIPOC).

Jillian Sanders (Texas A&M)
Leslie Baker (Portland State)
Hannah Zimmerman (Standford)
Mark England (UC Santa Cruz)
Mia Bennett (U Washington)
Shouwei Li (UC Riverside)

"Without the award I would not be able to present and network at perhaps the most important conference of my career."

# **COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS**

**COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT ACTIVITIES (Year 2 of Award: September 2020-August 2021)** 



### **Mailing Lists**

- ArcticInfo: 5,238 subscribers, 294 postings, emails opened 347,831 times
- Polar Education List: 1,646 subscribers



- Arctic Research Speed Networking -95 participants
- Arctic Research Webinars- 7 seminars with 471 participants from 11 countries and 27 US states
- Webinar Archive seminars recording during the reporting period were viewed 2,274 times
- ARCUS Annual Meeting 128 attendees & 21 ARCUS
   Institutional Members represented
- Funders Meet & Greet -103 attendees with 7 featured funding organizations



#### Witness the Arctic Newsletters

- 8.808 subscribers
- 44 articles from 78 contributors
- 31,836 webpage views



#### Website

www.arcus.org

- 270,411 page views and 153,353 unique visitors
- 51% users from US and rest from 201 different countries
- Arctic Calendar with 2,984 events and 31,217 page views
- Publications Directory 220 publications with 1,216 page views
- Directory of Arctic Researchers with 4,209 Arctic experts

### HOW TO JOIN THE ARCUS COMMUNITY ONLINE:

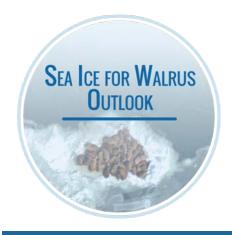
- 1) Subscribe to <u>ArcticInfo</u> for weekly news from the broader Arctic research community. This is a place to submit your event announcements, job openings, & other news: <u>www.arcus.org/arctic-info</u>
- 2) Subscribe to the <u>Witness The Arctic newsletter</u> to receive more in-depth articles highlighting Arctic research & education efforts: www.arcus.org/witness-the-arctic
- 3) Subscribe to the <u>ARCUS Monthly Report</u> to receive a monthly update on ARCUS & ARCUS Member Organization news as well as a digest of job openings, professional development opportunities, and funding opportunities: <u>www.arcus.org/arcus/member-newsletter</u>.
- 4) Submit your Arctic-related meetings, events, & funding deadlines to the <u>Arctic</u> Calendar: www.arcus.org/events/arctic-calendar
- 5) Subscribe to the <u>Polar Education Mailing List</u> for education-related news & announcements.: www.polartrec.com/about/education-list
- 5) Join the <u>Directory of Arctic Researchers</u>: www.arcus.org/researchers
- 4) Join us on Social Media:







# Sea Ice for Walrus Outlook



The Sea Ice for Walrus Outlook (SIWO) is a resource for Alaska Native subsistence hunters, coastal communities, and others interested in sea ice and walrus. The SIWO provides weekly reports each spring with information on weather and sea ice conditions relevant to walrus in the northern Bering Sea and southern Chukchi Sea regions of Alaska.

More information: www.arcus.org/siwo

Follow us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/seaiceforwalrus



### LOCAL OBSERVERS:

Shishmaref: Curtis E. Nayokpuk

Wales: Robert Tokeinna, Jr.

Brevig Mission Marcus Barr

Mana.

Frank (Boogles) Johnson, II

Gambell: Clarence Irrigoo, Jr.

Savoonga: Agef Waghiyi

Diomede: Eeleengayouq Ozenna

SIWO is managed by ARCUS and produced in partnership with the National Weather Service, Eskimo Walrus Commission, University of Alaska Fairbanks, and local observers. Support for SIWO is provided by the National Science Foundation's Arctic Sciences Section (PLR-1928794).



# of Weekly Reports in 2021 (March-June)

13



# of local observations

60



# Alaskan communities engaged

43



# of Facebook Followers

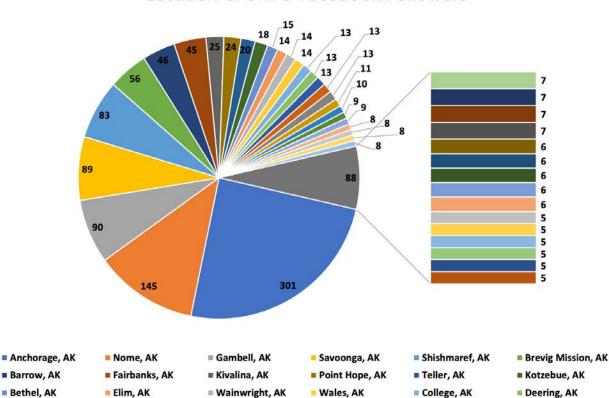
1,652

The 2021 SIWO season ran from 26 March - 18 June. At the start of the season, open water patches & leads shifted with the winds & were not often accessible to hunters. Walrus were present April through June. Some communities still had difficulty accessing walrus during this time, however. Ice lingered in the region longer than in recent years.

Walrus resting on ice near Gambell in mid-May. Photo by Clarence Irrigoo, Jr.



#### Location of SIWO Facebook Followers



Palmer, AK

Juneau, AK

Kipnuk, AK

Toksook Bay, AK

# ARCTIC RESEARCH COLLABORATION

Unalakleet, AK

Koyuk, AK

■ Sitka, AK

# WORKSHOP

Hooper Bay, AK

Port Clarence, AK

Ottawa, ON, Canada Shaktoolik, AK

Seattle, WA

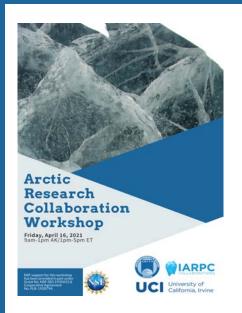
■ Homer, AK

Stebbins, AK

Alakanuk, AK

Scammon Bay, AK

■ White Mountain, AK = Golovin, AK



ARCUS, UC Irvine, and IARPC Collaborations co-hosted a series of networking and collaboration activities in 2021, including the Arctic Research Collaboration Workshop held virtually on 16 April.

Wasilla, AK

■ Nuigsut, AK

Noatak, AK

Tuntutuliak, AK

Diomede, AK

■ Point Lay, AK

Noorvik, AK

Chevak, AK

A panel of experienced interdisciplinary researchers shared examples of successful collaborative research projects and processes that support project conceptualization, disciplinary integration, and effective engagements with local communities. Participants also took part in small group discussions to help project teams identify and define specific research problems that might be used to stimulate ongoing research collaboration.

#### Panelists & Small Group Facilitators

Holly Hapke (UC Irvine)

Elise Miller-Hooks (George Mason University)

Katherine Duderstadt (University of New Hampshire)

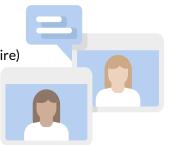
Jennifer Brewer (University of New Hampshire)

Courtney Carothers (University of Alaska)

Pips Veazey (University of Maine)

Liz Weinberg (IARPC Collaborations)

Olivia Lee (University of Alaska Fairbanks)



# 2021 RESEARCH SUPPORT HIGHLIGHTS

ARCUS regularly serves an important facilitation role for collaborative research endeavors seeking to engage participants across institutions, sectors, disciplines, cultures, geographic locations, and/or career levels.

## **Sea Ice Prediction Network - Phase 2 (SIPN2)**

SIPN2 activities aim to improve Arctic sea ice forecasts using a multi-disciplinary approach that includes modeling, new products, data analysis, and scientific networks.

- ARCUS' role in SIPN2 (funded by NSF) includes strategic planning, project management, networking, and outreach & communications.
- A key activity of SIPN is the Sea Ice Outlook, with reports in June, July, and August containing a variety of perspectives on Arctic sea ice—from observations of current conditions, to advanced numerical models, to qualitative perspectives from citizen scientists. In 2021, 45 groups from around the world contributed to the effort.

More information: https://www.arcus.org/sipn

# **Navigating the New Arctic (NNA)**

Navigating the New Arctic is a National Science Foundation initiative designed to support fundamental convergence research across the social, natural, environmental, engineering, computing, and information sciences.

 In year 2 of the ARCUS Cooperative Agreement, ARCUS staff worked with NNA project teams to develop an online hub featuring all 69 of the NNA grants that had been funded to date. The hub shared project descriptions, field location data and mapping, team member profiles, and project timelines and were viewed 7,345 times during the reporting period.

More information: https://www.arcus.org/nna



# 2021 RESEARCH SUPPORT HIGHLIGHTS

# **Arctic Research Community Meetings**

Although COVID-19 health and safety concerns continue to make it difficult for ARCUS to host in-person conferences, meetings, and events, ARCUS staff have been very successful over the past two years in pivoting to virtual forms of engagement and collaboration.

In the second year of our Cooperative Agreement with NSF, we were also able to extend more guidance, expertise, and staffing to the virtual gatherings of our Member and Partner organizations.

A few of the organizations and virtual community events supported by the ARCUS team during the reporting period include:



- Interagency Arctic Research Policy Committee (IARPC) Research Plan Development Workshop (2020)
- Woodwell Climate Research Center's Carbon Flux Workshop (2020)
- Adaptable Microgrids in Arctic Communities Research Advisory Workshop
- Engaging Youth in Arctic STEM
- Kawerak Tribal Representatives Meeting
- Inuit Circumpolar Council Alaska's Ethical and Equitable Engagement (EEE) Meetings
- Permafrost Carbon Network Annual Meetings













### **National Park Service Beringia Days**



In 2021, ARCUS staff began working with the National Park Service on plans to host the next Beringia Days International Conference during the summer or fall of 2023. Stay tuned for this unique heritage event!

# **EDUCATION HIGHLIGHTS**

ARCUS education programming and outreach efforts promote access for students and teachers to Polar research experiences, projects, and professionals. In 2021, ARCUS staff were active in promoting culturally-relevant STEM education for Alaskan Native students through their work with the IARPC Arctic STEM Education Working Group and through additional collaboration with the North Pacific Research Board (NPRB).



# **Engaging Rural & Alaska Native Undergraduates & Youth in Arctic STEM**



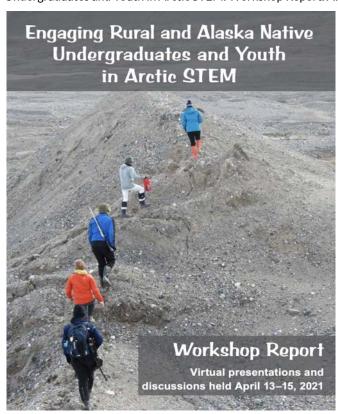


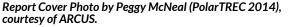


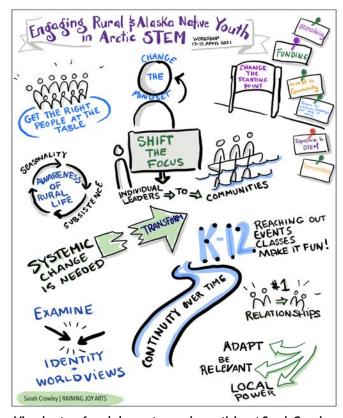
The virtual workshop Engaging Rural and Alaska Native Undergraduates and Youth in Arctic STEM was held from April 13–15, 2021. The goal of the workshop was to bring together rural and Alaska Native youth and undergraduates, federal agency representatives, researchers on Arctic STEM projects, Indigenous faculty and staff, those from the private sector, and rural Alaska community members to discuss the gaps, challenges, opportunities, and successful practices to increase and support the representation of rural and Alaska Native undergraduates and youth in STEM education and career pathways.

The workshop was an initiative of the IARPC Arctic STEM Education Working Group and was hosted by ARCUS in collaboration with the International Arctic Research Center (IARC) with funding from the National Science Foundation (Grant #s: NSF PLR 1304316 and PLR 1928794).

Workshop Report Citation: Arctic Research Consortium of the United States. 2021. Engaging Rural and Alaska Native Undergraduates and Youth in Arctic STEM: Workshop Report. ARCUS, Fairbanks, Alaska.







Visual notes of workshop outcomes by participant Sarah Crowley

# PolarTREC 2020-21 STEM at the Poles!



The PolarTREC education program, now in its 14th year, has provided more than 170 US teachers a unique opportunity to work with scientists in the polar regions. Currently supported through the STEM at the Poles! Rearch Experiences for Formal and Informal Educators in the Polar Regions grant from the National Science Foundation (Award# 1918637), this program invigorates polar science education and understanding by bringing educators and polar researchers together through field-based, hands-on, research experiences in both the Arctic and Antarctica.

Due to the global COVID-19 pandemic, ARCUS made the difficult decision to postpone deployment of all 2020 PolarTREC educators to both the Arctic and Antarctica with most of the expeditions postponed until 2022. During the summer of 2021, two teachers were deployed. In late June, teacher Liza Backman traveled to Alaska and worked with Dr. Jeremy May and Dr. Steve Oberbaur, at Toolik Field Station. In September, teacher Jon Pazol participated in a ship-based expedition as part of a biennial cruise in the Eastern Eurasian Basin. In addition, PolarTREC alumnus Mark Goldner returned to Svalbard, Norway to work with Dr. Julie Brigham-Grette. For the latest news on the program or to follow the PolarTREC teachers on their expeditions, please visit the PolarTREC Virtual Base Camp online at www.polartrec.com.

More information: https://www.polartrec.com

#### 2020-2021 PolarTREC Cohort



























# **2021 FINANCIAL REPORT**

Fiscal Year 2021 Revenue by Source (October 2020 - September 2021)

