



NSF-funded COVID-19 Research and Recovery

Researchers at **Sitka Sound Science Center** received an NSF RAPID grant to study public attitudes in rural Alaskan communities about the COVID-19 crisis in order to better understand how different types of communities are reacting to this pandemic. The spread of COVID-19 has impacted communities around the country in different ways. From urban centers to rural communities, and in regions spanning the country, understanding the variations in pandemic response will help establish a historical record of the COVID-19 crisis as well as inform public health policy.



STEM Education

With support from NSF's Advanced Technological Education program, which focuses on the education of technicians for the high-technology fields that drive the nation's economy, the **University of Alaska Anchorage** is leading a partnership among **Prince William Sound College**, nine high schools in seven school districts, and regional employers. The project's long-term goal is to fill needs in Alaska's skilled technical workforce by providing Alaskan high school students with introductory courses in software engineering. To reach this goal, this project will prepare teachers in underserved Alaska high schools to teach dual-enrollment courses in the software engineering fields of commercial web design and mobile application development. The courses will use a cooperative model of instruction that combines the content expertise of college faculty with the teaching expertise of certified high school teachers. The courses will meet all five of the Alaska state technology standards and thus be relevant for high school graduation as well as college credit.



Research Driving Innovation

Led by the **University of Alaska Fairbanks**, the NSF-supported Fire and Ice project focuses on two important Alaskan ecosystems: the boreal forest, which covers 11% of the world's land mass, and the coastal margins of the Gulf of Alaska, which covers an area of about 600,000 square miles. The boreal fire research team is working to identify drivers of fire weather, map active fire behavior, and evaluate the impacts of wildfire on ecosystem services in affected communities. This project will inform fire management and lead to the development of improved fire-spread models and tools for fire risk evaluation and web-based fire forecasts. The coastal margins research team studies nearshore coastal ecosystems and evaluates the responses of fish and other marine species to varying glacial environments. The results of both the boreal fire and coastal margins research benefit natural resource management in Alaska and more generally in regions with wildfires and changing hydrology.



EPSCoR

COMPETITIVE RESEARCH | Alaska is one of 28 U.S. states or territories under [NSF's Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research \(EPSCoR\)](#). Over **\$4,540,000** in awards have been made to Alaska academic institutions through EPSCoR in FY 2021. For more information, visit [Alaska's EPSCoR state web page](#).

NCSES

According to the [National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics \(NCSES\)](#), which is housed in NSF, **24%** of Science, Engineering and Health doctorates conferred in Alaska are made in Earth Sciences.

- **4.7%** of Alaska's workforce are employed in S&E occupations.
- **34.74%** of Alaska's higher education degrees are concentrated in S&E fields.

Learn More

COVID RELIEF - Congress provided NSF with funding to prevent, prepare for, and respond to COVID-19 in the CARES Act of 2020 and the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act of 2021. For more information on NSF-funded COVID-19 research and recovery, visit NSF's award database for [CARES Act](#) and [ARP](#) awards, and NSF's Toolkit for [COVID funding updates](#).

NSF FACT SHEETS – NSF provides fact sheets about the agency and its bold investments in basic research. These fact sheets profile NSF investments in research across all fields of science and engineering, including [quantum](#), [artificial intelligence](#), and [advanced manufacturing](#), and the NSF-supported [research](#) and [computing infrastructure](#) powering the U.S. response to COVID-19.

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