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Colorado Environmental Educator Embarks on Polar Science Experience
Educator research experiences improve and enliven science education by connecting educators, scientists, students, and the public around the globe.

Going Polar! After two years of anticipation (waiting through the global pandemic) Sarah Johnson, environmental education specialist of Wild Rose Education in Carbondale, Colorado will be setting out to explore new landscapes and learn from cutting edge scientists. She will be joining the IABP AK Spring 22 Deployment led by the University of Washington Polar Science Center and the Office of Naval Research International Cooperative Engagement Program for Polar Research in the northern most town in the United States, Utqiaġvik, Alaska March 27 - April 8, 2022.

The science team will be deploying drifting buoys that collect real-time environmental conditions data (weather, geographic position, and time) and in coordination with the International Arctic Buoy Programme, that maintains a network of drifting buoys in the Arctic Ocean providing meteorological and oceanographic data for real-time operational requirements and research purposes including support to the World Climate Research Programme (WCRP) and the World Weather Watch (WWW) Programme.

Beginning in late March, Sarah will contribute to the team as a science field assistant and the public relations officer during an authentic scientific expedition in the Arctic, while other PolarTREC educators will be working in research locations from pole to pole (the Arctic Ocean to Antarctica), as part of a program that allows educators to experience first-hand what it is like to conduct scientific research in some of the most remote locations on earth.

Sarah is one of 11 educators selected in 2020 through a nationwide search to participate in PolarTREC, an educational research experience in which K-12 teachers and informal educators participate in polar research, working closely with scientists as a pathway to improving science education. Through PolarTREC, selected educators have the rare opportunity to spend one to six weeks working with a research team in the Arctic or Antarctic. While on field expeditions, educators and researchers share their experiences with scientists, educators, communities, and students of all ages through the use of internet tools such as online teacher and researcher journals, message boards, photo albums, podcasts, *PolarConnect* real-time presentations from the field, and online learning resources. After the field experience, teachers and researchers will continue to share their experiences with the public and create instructional activities to transfer scientific data, methodologies, and technology to centers of learning.

Sarah's team is the first PolarTREC expedition to depart in 2022 as her team deploys to the Arctic community of Utqiaġvik (Barrow), Alaska. Additional expeditions will take place throughout the Arctic field season in the summer of 2022. The Antarctic field season will be in full swing by November and continue through the winter of 2022-23. This year's expeditions will range from the

Arctic Circle to the South Pole and study a large scope of topics from marine biology to landscape ecology.

Follow Sarah's experience on PolarTREC's virtual base camp at www.PolarTREC.com and also at www.WildRoseEducation.com/Arctic.

PolarTREC is managed by the Arctic Research Consortium of the U.S. (ARCUS) and funded by the National Science Foundation and additional partnerships. For more information and to participate, see the PolarTREC website at: http://www.polartrec.com or contact the ARCUS Project Managers, Janet Warburton and Judy Fahnestock at info@polartrec.com or call 907-474-1600.

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The Arctic Research Consortium of the United States (ARCUS) is based in Fairbanks, Alaska and was formed in 1988 to provide leadership in advancing knowledge and understanding of the Arctic. ARCUS is a member consortium of educational and scientific institutions. Further information is available at: http://www.arcus.org.