**Teacher-Researcher Networking Plan**

**Bault, Jennifer 2017**

**Pre-Expedition Networking:**

Communication with Dr. Xie will commence through email and short conference calls. There will be two conference calls with PolarTREC and Dr. Xie or someone from the team and my self prior to deployment. Additionally, imid-June, I traveled to UTSA for a week-long conference run. by the Geophysics Dept. at UTSA. At this conference, I was able to meet with Dr. Hongjie Xie and Dr. Yongli Gao who will also be on the expedition. I was also able to meet with Dr. Stephen Ackley and his wife prior to leaving San Antonio. During the conference, I was able to present the PolarTREC experience to the other teachers attending.

I have read the blogs from Dr. Ackley’s journey in the spring and have read information on PIPERS research. I have also been reading several publications on life in Antarctica and some of the history of Antarctica.

Tools that I bring into the expedition include a passion to learn, an eagerness to take part in every aspect of the research and substantial perseverance to continue forging ahead in all sorts of conditions. I have knowledge of snow machining and as a native Wisconsinite, plenty of experience in cold and icy weather. I will work hard and without complaint. I believe I have strong writing skills (probably my biggest strength/tool) that will also help in communicating to both the public and educational communities. I am also generally happy, even when tired. However, I am quiet and prefer to stay in the background rather than the front lines.

**Networking in the Field:**

I am hoping to provide assistance in the field to both Dr. Xie and Dr. Gao, but am also looking to be the historian of the group, documenting our research and journey. I love to take pictures. Hoping that my photography skills will come in handy and that there will ultimately be some good shots.

 Our research group is very small, three of us including myself. I am still working on figuring out my exact role in the field. I have experience with snowmobiles and am hoping that will be of use at the very least will allow our group to be more productive and efficient. I am a quick study and do not shy away from hard work. Growing up as a “farm” girl, you learned to pick up the slack and also a variety of problem-solving skills.

In the field, I would really like to have a greater understanding of what the data we are acquiring will tell us. How does it fit into the greater understandings of climate change, if at all? I would also like to know more about the interplay of the ice melt and salinity of the Ross Sea and how that factors into the greater ocean circulation patterns. If there are other opportunities to work with or visit with other scientists doing biological research I would also enjoy learning about this as well so as to be able to share back with my AP Bio students. Finally, I would like to establish clear lines of communication regarding the outreach to my students/education groups and how both Drs. Xie and Gao would like to be part of that.

I am a persistent person. I will find appropriate times to discuss outreach and will use my day-off (Sundays) as a work day on my own in ensuring the outreach back to my school and other schools/public is clear and of interest. The actual ice-coring process will be of great interest to my students. I am hopeful that there will be a great deal of discussion around climate change as that is an area of great interest to nearly all. My AP Env. Sci. students will be interested in many aspects of the research and I think many will simply be interested in what it is like to be in Antarctica!

**Post-Expedition Networking:**

I am excited to find avenues to use the data from our fieldwork with my students and also to write lesson plans incorporating some of the knowledge and skills I will acquire while on the expedition. This is the heart of what I am most looking forward to. I can’t wait to share the experience in the classroom with hands-on activities that will engage the students and get them asking questions. I am hoping Dr. Xie and/or Dr. Gao will join my classes in the spring in WI. We have a fairly extensive field trip that incorporates some geology that I believe both would be interested in. Using the ARCUS funding, perhaps this travel will be made accessible.

I hope that this experience will afford a life-long connection to Dr. Xie and Dr. Gao. I envision frequent communication in regards to writing the lesson plans that may serve both my classrooms and perhaps those at the University level. As an AP teacher, I feel that my students should be doing entry level collegiate work and so with any luck and a great deal of collaboration, I think we might be able to render a product that would serve both of us well. I have strengths in lesson plan writing and developing hands-on, active learning activities. I am hopeful this will be a strength I can offer my team. I am interested in their research and hope that there can be future collaborations whether about polar science or perhaps some other area of research that both are part of in Texas and/or China. The UTSA summer teacher conference hosted by the Geology dept. could be a great avenue to share the research and lessons plans from the expedition this fall.

I realize that many collegiate researchers are looking for avenues for outreach into youth education. Sharing research with young minds is not always easy or natural. Students of younger ages require different strategies of teaching and learning. I can serve as the expert in that arena for my team and find ways to tailor the science/research to a level that younger minds can readily consume and become interested in. I am looking forward to developing a life-long partnership and friendship.