



## Pink Palace Manager of Education Alex Eilers has landed in Antarctica!

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### [MemphisConnect](#)

She's participating in PolarTREC (Teachers and Researchers Exploring and Collaborating), a National Science Foundation-funded project administered by the Arctic Research Consortium of the United States. Paired with field scientists partnered with PolarTREC, Eilers and her team will operate out of McMurdo Station, Antarctica, studying Weddell Seals, leaving behind our warm and cozy world for six weeks on the planet's most frigid and barren continent.

Eilers says her involvement with PolarTREC has electrified her with "pure excitement." "I'm thrilled not only for the expedition itself but for all of the activities that will be happening during and after the expedition," she says. "The Museum has some incredibly cool, fun, educational and family-friendly activities this school year. We've been amazed at the number of people wanting to get involved. Many more than we expected when we began planning the programming. I think this journey has really captured people's imaginations."



Designed to improve K-12 science education nationwide, the PolarTREC project is sending 12 teachers from across the country to sites at both poles. Eilers is a perfect fit for the program because of her ability to reach a huge pool of students.

"This is a great opportunity for students and teachers in our area," says Steve Pike, Director of Museums for the Pink Palace Family of Museums. "They will benefit from Alex's participation in this project. It will widen her knowledge and enable her to share much more with science students. I also think it's exciting for the general public."

Through the PolarTREC website, curious folks at home can share in the adventure through photo-identification games, polar-themed quiz challenges and *Postcards From the Pole*. Eilers will also be blogging from the field, discussing the experiments she and her team conduct and describing the day-to-day routine of staying fit, healthy, and generally alive in extreme cold.

Thrilled about this once-in-a-lifetime experience, this educator is eager to share what she discovers on her journey.

“My main interests are learning and sharing whatever knowledge I can with people in back in North America,” she says. “I want to take people on a virtual voyage to the Antarctic.”

With the help of a robust web of social networking, extensive blogging and other emerging technologies, Eilers and the Pink Palace Museum will do just that. The public can stay up to date with journals from Eilers on the PolarTREC website ([polartrec.com](http://polartrec.com) under the ‘upcoming expeditions’ heading) and on the Pink Palace’s website ([memphismuseums.org](http://memphismuseums.org)), which will feature news about the journey, games and contests exploring polar science.

Keep an eye on Memphis Connect. We’ll be checking in with her periodically during her adventure, reporting on her research, discoveries and day-to-day routine at McMurdo Station.