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TVUSD Teacher Svea Anderson Selected for Prestigious PolarTREC Research Expedition



For Immediate Release

Teachers Embark on Polar Research Experiences

Teacher research experiences will improve and enliven science education by connecting teachers, researchers, students, and the public around the globe.

Toolik Field Station, Alaska, Arctic Circle: Svea Anderson, a 6th grade teacher at Agua Caliente Elementary School always wanted to bring real world scientific experiences to her students, and she will be living her lifelong dream by joining Dr. Syndonia Bret-Harte in the Arctic for four weeks conducting research on the tundra's ecology. The project description includes that the ecosystems develop and change through interactions between living things and their physical environment. A shift in vegetation is one of the most important changes an ecosystem can experience, because it can alter exchanges of energy (originating from sunlight), water, and elements such as carbon (C) and nitrogen (N) between air, plants, and soil. In the Arctic, a widespread shift from tundra to deciduous shrub-dominated vegetation appears to be occurring. This project will assess contributions of different shrub feedbacks to carbon and nitrogen cycling, and improve predictions of the consequences of shrub expansion in the Arctic for regional and global climate.

Beginning in July, Svea Anderson will participate as a research team member in an authentic scientific expedition in the Arctic, joining other K-12 teachers who will be working in research locations from the

Arctic Ocean to Antarctica, as part of a program that allows teachers to experience first-hand what it is like to conduct scientific research in some of the most remote locations on earth.



Svea Anderson is one of the teachers selected through a nationwide search to participate in PolarTREC, an educational research experience in which K-12 teachers participate in polar research, working closely with scientists as a pathway to improving science education. Through PolarTREC, selected teachers will have the rare opportunity to spend two to six weeks working with a research team in the Arctic or Antarctic. While on field expeditions, teachers and researchers will 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

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transfer scientific data, methodologies, and technology to classrooms.

The first expedition departs in spring 2018 with a teacher deploying shipboard to Antarctica. By mid-June multiple teachers will be heading to Alaska. Additional expeditions will take place throughout the Arctic field season in the summer of 2018. The Antarctic field season will be in full swing by November and continue through the winter of 2018-19. 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.

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 Fahnstock 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>.

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