Cultural Connections to Alaska Science

Project research scaffolds upon prior work (NSF-DRK-12: 1812888) to explore the effectiveness of the Cultural Connections Process Model (CCPM). The model supports institutional + Indigenous co-production of place-based K-12 STEM education resources. The research is conducted by an Alaska Native researcher. Prior research tested the model in one rural Alaska school district (Northwest Arctic Borough) and grade level (middle school). This project applies the model to a different grade level (high school), four geographic regions of Alaska (northwest, interior, southcentral, southeast), and four Indigenous cultures (Iñupiaq, Gwich'in, Tsimshian, Sugpiaq).







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Co-PI Topkok's Indigenous research methodology, Katimarugut, was formalized in his dissertation with help from Iñupiaq participants (Topkok, 2015). The project's research methods align with: Guidelines for Respecting Cultural Knowledge (ANKN, 2000); Coolangatta Statement on Indigenous Rights in Education (Read, 2006); United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UN, 2007); "Mapquqput Iñuuniaġniġmi" (Our Blanket of Life, NSBSD, 2010); the Iñupiat Ilitqusiat (cultural values) of the Iñupiat people of Northwest Alaska (ANKN, n.d.); the "Kheegwadadhaak'a" (We Just Keep the Fire Going) Framework (Fisher, 2018); "Liitukut Sugpiat'stun" (We Are Learning How To Be Real People, Drabek, 2012); and Raven Bloodlines: Tsimshian Identity: An Autoethnographic Account of Tsimshian Wil'naat'ał, Politics, Pedagogy, and Law, (Greening, 2017).

The project uses Community-Based Participatory Research (Barnhardt, 2005a; Castagno & Brayboy, 2008; Israel et al., 2008; U.S., 2013) and builds upon previous work testing the CCPM in Kotzebue, Alaska in collaboration with Hannah Paniyavluk Loon, Lena Suuyuk Hanna, Lance Qaluraq Kramer, and Macy Kikiktagruk Kenworthy.

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