



2007-2009

INTERNATIONAL POLAR YEAR ALASKA™



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Dear Alaskan Educator,

The University of Alaska Fairbanks is pleased to provide you with the enclosed International Polar Year Educator Resource Guide.

The International Polar Year is a two-year global campaign to expand our understanding of Earth's polar regions and their people. It is our hope that you will use this guide to increase student awareness and understanding of IPY. Inside you will find engaging activities and resources to enhance curriculum on the important issue of climate change and its impacts to our planet.

To kick-off this academic year, we are especially pleased to announce the **IPY K12 statewide art and writing competitions**. These competitions give students an opportunity to express themselves using the six themes of the Alaska IPY efforts: change, connection, discovery, observation, people and research. You will find information about how students can submit their work in the resource guide or online at www.ipy.alaska.edu.

We hope that you will share this resource with your staff and that it will inspire you to participate in the various activities that the University of Alaska is hosting throughout the International Polar Year.

Sincerely,

Virgil L. (Buck) Sharpton, PhD
UAF Vice Chancellor for Research
Chair, IPY Steering Committee

Melissa Hill
Co-Chair, IPY Education Committee

Elena Sparrow, PhD
Co-Chair, IPY Education Committee