

# Kenneth Toovak & Max Brewer Memorial Research Award

## History:

The community of Utqiagvik (formally Barrow) has been ground zero for Arctic Research dating as far back as the first International Polar Year of 1881 when the Signal Corps and the Smithsonian sponsored the establishment of a permanent station for meteorological, magnetic, tidal and pendulum observation. This was followed by the establishment of the Arctic Research Laboratory (ARL), later known as the Naval Arctic Research Laboratory. NARL was under the auspices of the United States Navy beginning in the early 1940's to support petroleum exploration and Arctic research in what is now known as the Naval Petroleum Reserve in Alaska (NPR). The research facility operated until 1980 when it was decommissioned due to the high cost of operations. The facility was then transferred to Ukpeagvik Inupiat Corporation (UIC) in 1984. UIC Science, a subsidiary of UIC, continues to operate it today.

Because of the unique proximity to the community of Utqiagvik, the Arctic Research Laboratory opened up opportunities for locals to get jobs at the station and set the foundation for the mission and services UIC Science, LLC provides today. Here is just one highlight from the early days of NARL:

*"The people of Barrow have brought experience and knowledge to the Laboratory, and the value of these to the research effort can never be fully measured. Many overland trips, ice projects, boat projects and ice stations owe their success to the presence and gentle suggestions of local people." (Schindler, 1972: 219)*

The community of Utqiagvik has further committed itself to the advancement of Arctic Research and in 1992 established the Barrow Environmental Observatory, now known as the Charles Etok Edwardsen Barrow Environmental Observatory (BEO). Ukpeagvik Inupiat Corporation set aside 7,466 acres of corporation land that was re-zoned as a scientific research district by the North Slope Borough. This is the same land that was utilized by past researchers beginning in 1947 when the first ARL researchers arrived in Utqiagvik. The re-zoning effort created an area where research could be conducted unimpeded by other development. UIC has taken further steps in 2020 to protect the land by establishing a Wetlands Mitigation Bank which prevents any permanent development on the southern 3000 acres of the BEO.

The year 2007 marked the completion of the Barrow Arctic Research Center (BARC). A 20,000sqft state of the art research facility complete with offices, laboratory spaces and supporting facilities. This was a much-needed upgrade in infrastructure since research support and logistics was being supported through many of the original NARL facilities that were built several decades before. The BARC along with the establishment of the BEO solidified Utqiagvik's presence in Arctic Research for many years to come and is the beginning of a new foundation from which to continue to build on.

## Overview:

The mission of UIC Science, LLC is to **"Enhance Arctic science and logistics through incorporation of our Inupiaq knowledge and values into our daily business practices"** -- just as our Grandparents did during the days of the NARL. We believe that western science and Indigenous knowledge are different but

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complimentary lenses through which we observe our world, and that the co-production of knowledge will provide better, more comprehensive, and more relevant Arctic Research that can inform policy makers to improve our collective understanding of the natural and social changing environment. It will also serve many other unanticipated purposes

The mission of UIC Science, our beliefs and Iñupiaq Values, and our sustained support for science motivates us to establish a new initiative that will foster linkages between next-generation scientists and our community. We hereby announce a request for proposals for the Kenneth Toovak & Max Brewer Memorial graduate student and/or postdoc research award, which will provide a stipend to support all field-based logistics. Successful applications must outline how the applicant will establish a successful career in Arctic Science by fostering meaningful collaborations and enabling actionable science. Our goal is to present applicants with sample questions that are community driven but also have broader impacts throughout the Arctic. We will accomplish this with a team of local Iñupiaq leaders and community members along with input from longtime Arctic Researchers that we determine to have an equally vested interest in science and the people of the Arctic. This same team will assist in our review and award of the scholarship.

We encourage applicants to highlight how they will address one or more of the research priorities identified from the community. The research priorities are listed below:

- 1) Food, Water, and Energy Security
- 2) Environmental Security
- 3) Socio-Environmental Impact of Climate Change
- 4) Sustainable Development

UIC Science is committed to offering successful awardees free logistical support for field research conducted in and/or around Utqiagvik that includes, but may not necessarily be limited to, airport pick up and drop off, orientation and field safety training, lodging for the duration of the project, vehicle use (pending availability) and/or transportation to and from the field (snow machine and ATV or vessel), snow machine and ATV training, access to common use laboratory space, guide services and bear guard support, fuel, field communications, and outreach support. In negotiation with the applicant and their advisor, UIC Science could recommend a local community member and/or a long-term researcher to serve as (a) mentor(s). We would also give special consideration to projects that include a form of extended community-based monitoring.

The only thing you as the awardee will be responsible for is:

- 1) Air travel to & from Utqiagvik
- 2) Food-related costs

UIC Science will be making one (1) or two (2) awards annually depending on the anticipated scope and duration of the awarded projects. This will be determined by the by the review committee.

## Eligibility:

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In order to be considered for this award, potential awardees must (1) be accepted into a graduate degree program or (2) must be a postdoc, at an accredited U.S. University at the time of proposal submission.

## Application Requirements:

For an application to be considered for award it must contain the following and be submitted as a single pdf document to [GradStudentApplications@uiccs.com](mailto:GradStudentApplications@uiccs.com). **Any applications that do not strictly follow these requirements will not be considered for award.**

- I) Project Title Page to include
  - a. Project Title
  - b. Your name
  - c. Name and address of Institution
  - d. Graduate Program Start and end; proposed graduation date
  - e. Five (5) keywords that best describe the proposed activity
  - f. Dates of proposed field work
  - g. Name of Graduate Student advisor.
- II) Proposed Project that outlines (**Limited to <3 pages, single space, 11pt font**)
  - a. Background and motivation for the research
  - b. Proposed Research Questions (can be phrased as hypotheses or objectives)
  - c. Proposed Methods (including potential logistical support requirements)
  - d. Expected Outcomes
  - e. Proposed plan for incorporating both western science and indigenous knowledge.
  - f. Proposed outreach plan for communicating results with the community.
  - g. Explanation of how the proposed research will advance the applicant's career
- III) Resume to include (**Limit to 2 pages**)
  - a. Contact information of student
  - b. Name of Graduate Advisor
  - c. Career goals
  - d. Relevant publications/presentations
  - e. Past field experience
- IV) Undergraduate and Graduate transcripts
- V) In addition, at least 2 letters of reference (1 personal and 1 professional) sent directly to [UICScienceResearchAward@uiccs.com](mailto:UICScienceResearchAward@uiccs.com)
- VI) Proposed plan to meet protocols for the Equitable and Ethical Engagement of indigenous communities. <https://iccalaska.org/wp-icc/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/EEE-Protocols-LR-1.pdf>
- VII) Proposed safety and communication plan.

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## Application Timeline:

- I) Application Deadline: **January 31, 2023**
- II) Award Announcement: On or before **March 31, 2023**
- III) Anticipated Field Date Start: **Spring 2023**

We look forward to your submission and appreciate your time and effort and commitment to advancing Arctic Research. Please reach out to us at [UICScienceResearchAward@uiccs.com](mailto:UICScienceResearchAward@uiccs.com) if you have any questions throughout the proposal process.

We would also like to extend a special thank all those involved in the development of this RFP. Without their help and support this project would not have come to fruition.

Quyanaqpak,



## References:

**Community-Based Monitoring and Indigenous Knowledge is a Changing Arctic** – A Review for the sustaining Arctic Observing Networks; Noor Johnson, Carolina Behe, Finn Danielson, Eva-Maria Krümmel, Scot Nickels, and Peter L. Pulsifer; [Community-Based-Monitoring-and-Indigenous-Knowledge-in-a-Changing-Arctic\\_web.pdf \(iccalaska.org\)](#)

**Circumpolar Inuit Protocols for Equitable and Ethical Engagement**; Inuit Circumpolar Council; [EEE-Protocols-LR-1.pdf \(iccalaska.org\)](#)

**Principles for Conducting Research in the Arctic**; Interagency Arctic Research Policy Committee (IARPC); [OPP Principles for the Conduct of Research in the Arctic | NSF - National Science Foundation](#)

**National Strategy for the Arctic Region**; [nat\\_arctic\\_strategy.pdf \(archives.gov\)](#)

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