

I would be honored to represent the merged IRIS and UNAVCO communities as the Chair of the first EarthScope Consortium Board of Directors. The merger of IRIS and UNAVCO brings with it both promise and challenge. For the EarthScope Consortium to be successful, all voices in our diverse community must be heard and their needs considered at all levels of governance and management. This includes diversity of scientific interests – we must ensure that smaller and emerging communities do not have their voices drowned out by larger or more established ones. It also includes diversity of institutions – we need to do better to integrate the voices from non-R1 institutions into our governance structure and decision-making processes. Finally, we cannot claim to be hearing a diverse range of voices without broadening our community beyond its historically limited racial, ethnic, religious, ableist, sexual-orientation, and gender-identity boundaries. As a member of the IRIS Board of Directors for the past two years, I have pushed hard to improve transparency in the merger process, and to ensure not only that the community heard from us, but that those of us in governance have ample opportunity to hear from the rest of the community. These efforts have been intended not as stand-alone information gathering campaigns, but rather as the beginnings of a conversation – one that we must work to continue through a broad range of mechanisms and venues.

As Chair of the inaugural Board of Directors for the Earthscope Consortium, I will work hard to establish governance structures that enable transparency, two-way communication, and improved access to governance for all members in our community. As our consortium grows, the importance of providing education and training to community members who participate in governance becomes ever more critical. Education about the breadth of science supported by the EarthScope Consortium will allow members of governance to give voice to the full scope of our community's needs and interests. Leadership training facilitated by EarthScope will not only benefit the consortium but is also transferrable to the roles our community members play within their home institutions. By broadening the number of different voices that we engage in governance work, we can ensure that the extra effort required to lead such a large organization well does not fall on too few shoulders while also ensuring greater diversity in opinions and expertise. Finally, I would work to provide more equitable access to geophysics to a broader range of students and scientists by building upon existing successful programs and by encouraging the development of new initiatives. Through these efforts, I hope to help grow and move our community forward towards a successful NSF recompetition and a bright future beyond.