

EarthScope Transportable Array Outreach Activities in Alaska and Western Canada

Lea Gardine¹, Tammy Bravo², Maité Agopian¹, Perle M. Dorr², John Taber², Michael E. West¹, Carl Tape¹, and Robert W. Busby²

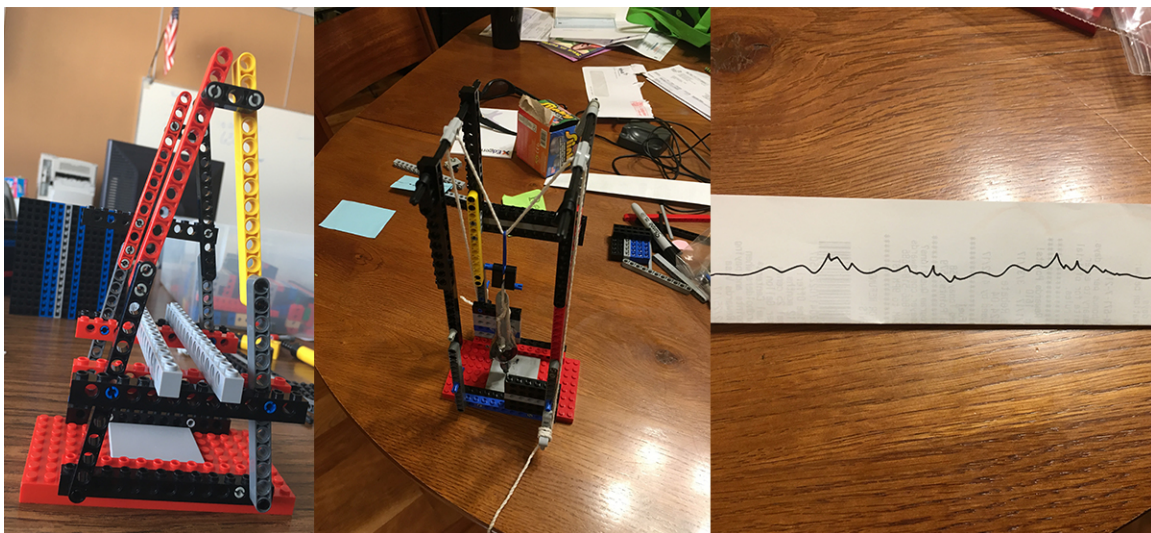
¹University of Alaska Fairbanks-Geophysical Institute ²IRIS Consortium

[IRIS](#) and [EarthScope](#) are partnering with the [Alaska Earthquake Center](#), part of the University of Alaska Fairbanks Geophysical Institute, to increase awareness of earthquakes in Alaska and western Canada and the benefits of the [Transportable Array](#) for people living in this region. We provide an update of ongoing education and outreach activities.

The remoteness and inaccessibility of large portions of Alaska and western Canada requires a multifaceted approach to outreach with a focus at the regional level. Region-specific publications and informational posters have been developed to tie in a sense of place. Meetings and interviews with Alaska Native Elders and tribal councils discussing the seismic history of the regions has led us to a better understanding of how residents view, respond to, and educate themselves about earthquakes.

The creation of Alaska content for IRIS's Active Earth Monitor, which emphasizes the widespread tectonic and seismic features, offers viewers a glimpse into Alaska's complexity and seismic potential. Classroom visits, particularly schools with TA stations nearby, and open invitations for laboratory tours has enriched the learning experience for students not only about seismicity, but the instrumentation and techniques that go into gathering the data. Continued efforts to engage residents at large cultural gatherings and community events have led to increased discussion about EarthScope in both Alaska and Canada. Increased collaborations with the UAF-hosted EarthScope National Office and [UNAVCO](#) have generated more opportunities to disseminate information.

An online, for-credit professional development course for Alaska teachers was offered in Spring and Fall 2017 through the University of Alaska Fairbanks and University of Alaska Anchorage Professional and Continuing Education (PACE) program. Created in partnership with IRIS [Seismographs in Schools](#), more than 40 educators learned methods of introducing seismic principles through hands on activities, as well as how to stream, access and interpret seismic data, including data from TA stations, in their classrooms using [jAmaSeis](#), a free software package available from IRIS. The course content was designed with an Alaska focus to encourage place-based learning.



A participant in the online professional development course built a seismometer with Legos.