# University of Maine's Follow a Researcher™ Program: Using Graduate Student Field Research as a Framework to Incorporate Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) Practices in the K-12 Classroom



# Lynn Kaluzienski<sup>1</sup>, Catherine Hamley<sup>1</sup>, Charles Rodda<sup>1</sup>, Gregory D. Kranich<sup>2</sup>, Laura Wilson<sup>2</sup>

Follow a Researcher™ is an innovative University of Maine 4-H program that connects youth with a graduate student who is conducting field research in a remote location. Using technology and social media, K-12 classrooms have an unprecedented opportunity to get to know a student researcher. Youth engage in the research process and witness NGSS Science and Engineering Practices in action.

<sup>1</sup>University of Maine Climate Change Institute <sup>2</sup>University of Maine Cooperative Extension

### **Meet the Researcher**

- Classroom visits in person or via Skype
- "Trip Flags" decorated by classrooms travel with expedition

Future program plans include connecting K-12 students with graduate students with a focus in labintensive research as well as engineering. We also are developing a training program for university outreach staff and a Follow a Researcher™ network that will allow other universities to host their own program while tapping into a larger national K-12 audience.

#SAVEMLTI My Ss are studying the cryosphere by connecting with

With windchill the coldest we've had is -32, and the warmest we've

@UMaineFAR - What has the temperature been so far? Have you come into

Sherry Blanchard @HESGr4

ready to go today!#UMaineFAR

#UMaineFAR in Antarctica. Virtual reality, twitter, videos, help us BE

- Prerecorded
- Basis for Twitter Q&A

# Videos

- Aligned with NGSS Practices
- Released weekly



Despite the difficulty, got an amazing 5 meter column to marine clay

which will be really fascinating to analyze for charcoal! #UMaineFAR

Follow a Researcher™ @UMaineFAR · Oct 19

Moravia asks @UMaineFARLynn: What made you want to be a

## **Live GPS Tracking**

- Online, real-time maps

**Experiential Learning** 

Activities

- Suggested by staff, or

teachers

home

- Shared by participating

- Connect remote research to

- Track expeditions over time

- Live Twitter Q&A
- Weekly during expedition
- Videos spark conversation
- Youth can ask anything
- Moderated by staff

## To learn more...

- email: UMaineFAR@maine.edu
- web: umaine.edu/4h/youth/followa-researcher
- Twitter: @UMaineFAR





