

APECS: A SUCCESSFUL WAY TO PROMOTE LEADERS DEVELOPMENT AND CONTRIBUTE TO OUTREACH THROUGH FORMAL/INFORMAL EDUCATION PATHWAYS

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What is APECS?

The Association of Polar Early Careers Scientists (APECS) is an organization for undergraduate and graduate students, postdoctoral researchers, early career faculty members and educators with interests in Polar Regions. APECS developed during the 4th International Polar Year (IPY 2007-2008) with the primary objectives of stimulating interdisciplinary and international research collaboration and developing effective future leaders in polar research, education and outreach. Comprising over 3000 members, hailing from over 75 countries and representing almost every major and minor Polar Science division and application, APECS has a substantial network of sponsors and collaborators, including 15 senior scientific organizations and research institutes as well as five early carrier partner organizations.

APECS is Opportunities for Career Development

APECS provide opportunities for early career scientists to gain “soft skills” such as communicating with the media, influencing policy, fund raising and project management that usually do not form part of the graduate’s training.



• Workshops and Panels:

Workshops encourage the sharing of ideas, concerns and expectations through a series of devoted presentations and practical sessions, while mentor panels are short, dedicated sessions often held over the lunch break at conferences and focus on a theme for discussion. Between 2006 and 2010, APECS has organized more than 40 panels and 15 workshops.

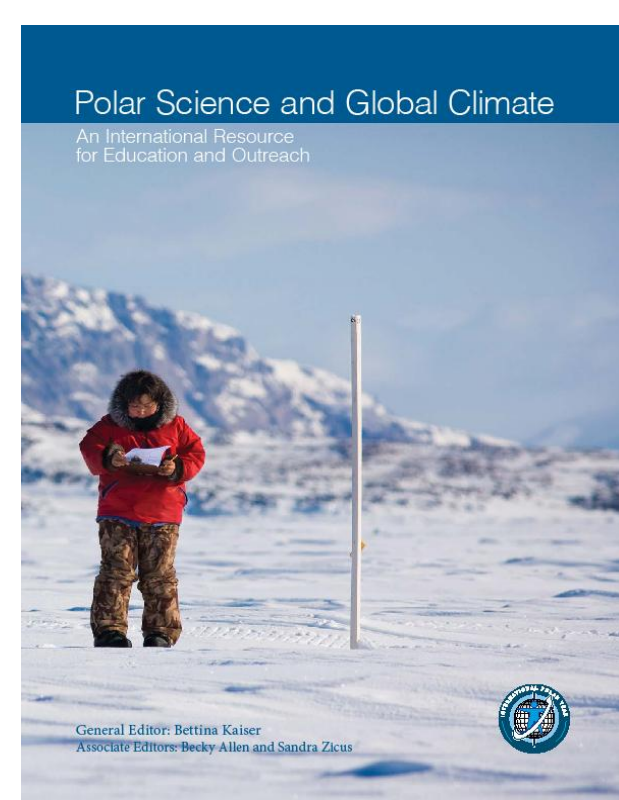
• Further Career Development activities include:

- ✦ APECS Webinar Series
- ✦ Regularly Updated Job & Opportunities listings & RSS feed
- ✦ Field Schools
- ✦ Networking Events at Conferences
- ✦ Mentorship Database
- ✦ Positions on International Committees, Session Chairs & Organizing Committees



APECS is Outreach

As one of its foundations, education and outreach is a central activity within APECS and is facilitated through its diverse membership. APECS contributes to general science literacy through 16 national education and outreach programs that include also several working groups of polar teachers.



• IPY Polar Resource Book:

This is an outstanding legacy of the 2007-2008 International Polar Year and will continue to support the integration of outreach into research.

• **FrostBytes:** This consists of a series of short audio and video messages from researchers in the field. These short sound bytes will be available through iTunes and partner websites.



APECS is Research

• Virtual Poster Sessions:

This is an online database of polar research poster publications. During monthly online sessions, presenters receive feedback from peers, improve their presentation skills and establish new collaborations.



• **Field Site Information:** This project aims to collect information on established field camps, ships used in research efforts, major research laboratories and communities where researchers work with local people.

This will form the basis of a database and map of polar field sites that will be housed on the APECS web site.



• Who’s Who in Polar Research Database:



To help early career researchers navigate the maze of polar acronyms, this database consists of descriptions and logos for organizations, research projects, institutions and educational programs related to polar science.

Get Involved in APECS!

APECS is proof that a community-driven effort can become a robust professional organization in just a few short years. By working with senior scientists and other mentors, APECS members’ enthusiasm has successfully been harnessed in the APECS we see today. You can be part of it by...

- ✦ Finding or becoming an APECS mentor
- ✦ Attending APECS Webinars and Virtual Poster Sessions
- ✦ Contributing your own work to the Virtual Poster Sessions
- ✦ Organizing or attending a Panel, Workshop, or Field School
- ✦ Joining a Working Groups or creating your own
- ✦ Posting jobs, events, and articles on www.apecs.is
- ✦ Joining one of APECS National Committees, the Council, or the Executive Committee!

