

LiKEN connects communities and scholars in action research for sustainable livelihoods, community resilience, open data, and community-centered policy.

### From Betsy Taylor...

There are paradoxes in being a network. Nets are flung wide to capture surprising new gifts. But 'net' originally meant knot, a weaving together that binds. As a growing network, LiKEN celebrates the paradoxical rhythms that open out, then gather in. Our webs of collaboration are ever wider, but they are woven together by ever firmer knots.

Our projects are diverse in issues and participants, but beneath the surface, they increasingly share common frameworks:

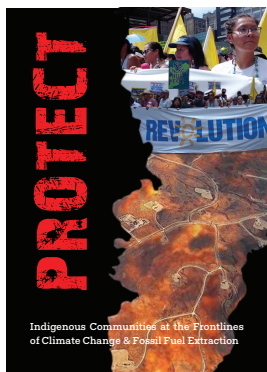
- To build partnerships between communities, practitioners, government, and scholars
- To weave multiple issues into holistic action plans
- To nurture local participation and livelihoods
- To build inter-generational communication and mutual care

**Please join us in this exciting work!**

### Rising Voices: Climate Resilience through Indigenous and Earth Sciences

The sixth annual convocation of **Rising Voices** was held April 11-13, 2018 in Duluth, MN to bring together participants from Indigenous communities, scientists, academics, researchers, students, and government representatives. The theme of this years gathering was "Mobilizing and Learning from Local Actions" to achieve culturally relevant and scientifically robust climate and weather solutions.

The gathering was organized in partnership between LiKEN, the National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR), the NOAA Office for Coastal Management, the College of Menominee Nation's Sustainable Development Institute, the Indigenous People's Climate Change Working Group, and the Department of Interior's Climate Adaptation Science Centers, among others.



### ORDER FILM JANUARY 2019!

**PROTECT:** Indigenous Communities at the Front-lines of Fossil Fuel Extraction

Next month, orders can be placed from our website for this one-hour film [protectfilm.org](http://protectfilm.org).

In 2016, a Diné/ Hopi film crew documented the LiKEN organized caravan between Native American communities across the U.S. - and the follow-up inter-regional conversations between indigenous youth working for a clean energy transition.

### Stories of Place: Martin County, Kentucky



Stories of Place students locating their homes and special places on a map of Martin County. Photo by Allison Leip

In August, LiKEN launched its Stories of Place program at Sheldon Clark High School, in Inez, Kentucky with support from a Whiting Fellowship awarded to Karen Rignall (University of Kentucky). Our Stories of Place team includes LiKENeer Mary Hufford, Karen Rignall, Ricki Draper (Highlander Center fellow), and Sheldon Clark High School teachers, Allison Leip (English) and Christin Roberson (Science).

Our community adviser is Nina McCoy, who formerly taught biology at Sheldon Clark High School. Twenty high school sophomores gather each week for Stories of Place meetings. Working with youth to gather and present the stories of elders, Stories of Place engages multiple generations in the discovery and renewal of places that matter most to Central Appalachian communities.

## Appalachian Land Study: Harlan County, Kentucky

Perhaps the biggest barrier to community prosperity in Central Appalachia is the profound inequality in landownership that emerged over a century of coal, timber, and other extraction. In coal dependent communities, entrenched absentee and corporate ownership overwhelms local economies, leaving only about 25% of land to residents to own or rent. LiKEN is working with a collaborative network of communities and scholars



Photo by Mary Hufford

([www.appalachianlandstudy.org](http://www.appalachianlandstudy.org)) to gather accurate data about land ownership, mineral rights, and public revenues across Appalachian counties in 6 states. With support from Sociological Initiatives and the Appalachian Community Fund, LiKEN is involved in a county level land study in Harlan County KY, coordinated by LiKENeer, Deborah Thompson, shown conducting a participatory mapping exercise at Pine Mountain Settlement School's Fall Fair Day.

## The Pipeline and the People

Craig Williams, founding director of the KY Environmental Foundation (KEF – which is now part of the LiKENetwork) played a key role in outreach and popular education about Kinder- Morgan's proposal to reverse the flow direction so that a 70-year-old, 2-foot diameter pipeline could carry natural gas liquids (NGLs) from fracking operations in Appalachia to the Gulf of Mexico. By the Fall of 2018, KEF orchestrated visible and vocal opposition to the plan from many local governments, educational institutions, civic organizations and even economic development entities concerned about potential dangers to people and environment.

As Craig Williams says, "This is a great accomplishment for the people of Kentucky." Press Release at [www.likenknowledge.org/news](http://www.likenknowledge.org/news)

## Rising Voices is transitioning to a year-round knowledge exchange network!

We are delighted to report that LiKEN, in partnership with NCAR and others, has been awarded a five-year grant of just under \$450,000 from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to transition Rising Voices from an annual gathering into a year-round knowledge exchange platform for Indigenous and earth sciences. Cross-cultural and interdisciplinary scientific collaborations informed by Indigenous knowledges can help to identify risks and vulnerabilities, and to inform decision-making in the face of adverse and unexpected consequences to a changing climate and extreme weather events.

## LiKEN Research Assistants

**Vera Petrovic**, Lawrence High School, KS (Fall 2017- Spring 2019)

**Amanda Pantoja**, University of California, Santa Barbara (Fall 2018- Spring 2019)

**Julia Feldman**, University of California, Santa Barbara (Fall 2018- Spring 2019)

**Paige Atkinson**, University of California, Santa Barbara (Fall 2018- Spring 2019)

**Itzel Flores Castillo**, University of California, Santa Barbara (Fall 2017-Spring 2018)

**Sophie von Hunnius**, University of California, Santa Barbara (Fall 2017-Spring 2018)

We are delighted to welcome several more research assistants to our team starting in January 2019:

**Jessica Clegg**, University of California, Santa Barbara; **Danyelle Mason**, University of California, Santa Barbara; and **Hannah Ornellas**, University of California, Santa Barbara

## LiKEN Mothership

In February, the LiKEN main office moved into a charming house in Lexington, KY that we rent from Hunter Presbyterian Church. Our new space, dubbed the Mothership, serves as a convivial gathering space for widely scattered LiKENeers and our partners. We have a conference room set up for videoconferencing and a comfy living room where people can converse, hang out, or read from our fantastic library. There is a full kitchen for our guests' needs. We supplement expenses by renting our 3 bedrooms to AirBnB lodgers, and to visiting university speakers and staff. **Please come visit!**

## PLEASE DONATE!

- Please help us leap into 2019 with enough money to support multi-issue community teams to tap into the single-issue silos through which money typically flows...
- Donate online at [www.likenknowledge.org/donate](http://www.likenknowledge.org/donate)
- Or, mail a check to: LiKEN, 109 Rosemont Garden, Lexington KY 40503

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