



Livelihoods Knowledge  
Exchange Network (LiKEN)  
FALL 2017 NEWSLETTER



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

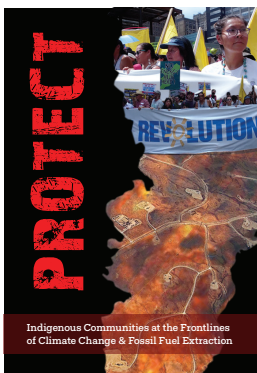
### From the LiKEN directors...

**Betsy Taylor, Julie Maldonado,  
and Mary Hufford**

LiKEN is about connection. When people connect to solve the root causes of community problems, there is a kind of magic in the room. It is hard work! Yet, we have felt that spark of creative energy many times since we started LiKEN two years ago. Here are highlights from LiKEN's three programs:

- **C2C (community-to-community) Program** supports community researchers to build livelihoods in their communities that last, and that they value and want.
- **R2R (region-to-region) Program** nurtures inter-regional knowledge networks for and between science, action, policy, and justice.
- **Civic Engagement Program** helps professionals and officials build skills and nurture values of community engagement.

**We are eager to hear from you!**



### FILM RELEASE JANUARY 2018!

**PROTECT:** Indigenous Communities at the Frontlines of Climate Change & Fossil Fuel Extraction

- To order the film: [protectfilm.org](http://protectfilm.org)
- [facebook.com/ProtectTheFilm](https://facebook.com/ProtectTheFilm)
- For more information, contact LiKENeer Julie Maldonado

**Join us to take action to protect our lands, air, waters, and health!**

**WE NEED YOUR HELP!** Our end-of-year fundraising goal is to raise \$7000 to cover expenses of the Hopi/Navajo filmmakers and to take this film back to Indigenous communities that participated in the making of this film. Please DONATE at [www.likenknowledge.org/donate!](http://www.likenknowledge.org/donate!)

### Rising Voices: Collaborative Science with Indigenous Knowledge for Climate Solutions



LiKEN and the National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR) co-organized the 5th annual Rising Voices gathering around the theme "Pathways from Science to Action", April 13–15. There were 134 participants representing Tribal Nations, federal agencies, state agencies, universities and colleges (including tribal universities and colleges), research centers, non-profits and NGOs from around the world. Rising Voices facilitates cross-cultural approaches for adaptation solutions to extreme weather and climate events, climate variability, and climate change. It is a growing movement of Indigenous and Western community leaders, scientific professionals, environmental and communication experts, students, educators, and artists from across the US and around the world.

### Appalachian Land Study

Since summer 2016, LiKEN has been working with activists, community residents, and scholars across TN, KY, WV, VA, AL, and NC to update the groundbreaking 1979-1981 participatory study of landownership and public revenues in Appalachia, *Who Owns Appalachia?*. With UnivKY faculty, Karen Rignall and Lindsay Shade, LiKENeer Betsy has been working

with over 120 collaborators from regional grassroots movements and colleges and universities. Feudal levels of inequality in ownership of land and resources are a formidable barrier to economic diversification. Tailoring data to meet local needs, the new land study will support a rich array of innovative sustainable development projects emerging across the region.



## Aegean-to-Appalachia exchange



In 2010, LiKENer Betsy Taylor met Greek activist / scholars, Frosini Koutsouti and Maria Gaglia-Bareli, at an international conference on the commons. In May 2017, Kathryn Newfont (UnivKY History professor and scholar of the Appalachian forest commons) and Betsy spent weeks in Ikaria to discuss region-to-region exchanges. We found many parallels between Appalachia and the Greek island periphery (not

least, a shared renown in fiddle playing!). We explored traditional and emerging practices for community-based management of water, heritage gardening and livelihoods, soil, forests, and biodiversity. We are exploring R2R knowledge exchange for bottom-up, participatory planning to reclaim democratic control over local economies and community well-being.

## Engaging Communities in Deliberative Dialogue for Success

LiKENer Dr. T Allan Comp and Kirsten Hagemann just completed an innovative project to build the capacity to communicate between government, civil society, and scholarly sectors. Over the past two years, they brought seven Department of Interior (DOI) VISTA site supervisors, and diverse government officials and community stakeholders together to explore issues facing the community and how to work together to address those public problems with other partners.

In close collaboration with the Kettering Foundation, forums have just finished with participants associated with: San Antonio Missions National Historical Park, TX; the Kasha-Katuwe tent Rocks National Monument, Albuquerque, NM; North Cascades National Park, Sedro-Woolley, WA; Appomattox Court House National Historical Park, VA; National Youth Programs, Groundwork USA, Yonkers, NY; Animas Watershed Partnership, Durango, CO; Western Slope Conservation Center, Paonia, CO.

## Forums co-convened by LiKEN

**Ecological Restoration, the Environmental Humanities, and the Re-Imagination of Appalachian Landscapes:** Organized by LiKENer Mary Hufford, at Appalachian Studies Association meetings, March, 2017.

**Just Environmental and Climate Pathways: Knowledge Exchange Among Community Organizers, Scholar-Activists, Citizen-Scientists and Artists** organized by LiKENer Julie Maldonado and Appalachian State University anthropologist Dana Powell, at Society for Applied Anthropology Meetings, 28 March, Santa Fe, NM. See report [www.likenknowledge.org/publications](http://www.likenknowledge.org/publications).

## Interns' corner



Two Highlander Center Economic Transition Fellows worked with LiKEN on the Land Study who bring the depth of insight that comes from deep roots in the counties they study. Terran worked in Wise County, with Southern Appalachian Mountain Stewards and Appalachian Voices. Kristie worked in Harlan County KY with LiKEN, Appalachian Citizens' Law Center, UnivKY faculty.

We had terrific interns from UnivCA/Santa Barbara, UnivKY, and Appalachian State Univ:

- **Eleanore Melaragno** (Summer–Fall 2017)
- **Brooke Moore** (Fall 2016–Summer 2017)
- **Michelle Sevilla** (Fall 2016–Summer 2017)
- **Savannah Drummer** (Fall 2016)
- **Madeleine Hall** (Fall 2016–Spring 2017)

## Reflections from Betsy Taylor...

We started LiKEN to fill gaps we experienced over decades of work in communities gripped by boom and bust. We saw extraordinary successes as people applied grit and local knowledge to urgent problems. But too often they lacked support systems. "What is missing?" we kept asking. Not much, we concluded. The problem is not a lack of resources as a country. The problem is that we lack alignment among resources we have. The missing link was the missing link. Therefore, we started LiKEN as a link-tank. Not as a think-tank that educates others, but as a hub to connect...

## PLEASE DONATE!

- Please help us leap into 2018 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

# FAIR DATA FOR ALL!