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Theme OTHER - Topics relevant to Arctic Observing

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Poster title (brief) Isumaqatigingniq: Building An Educational Bridge of Inuit Knowledge And Science

Abstract - text box

This proposed study will integrate Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit (IQ), described as “the Inuit way of knowing,” and science. These two methods of observing and understanding the natural and physical world each have useful and insightful methodologies; integrated through Isumaqatigingniq (Inuktitut for “thinking together”) they offer a transformative learning experience for grades 9-12. Holders of IQ and scientists seldom fully comprehend the discipline or practice of the other, and even less often do they actively integrate these knowledge approaches. Indigenous youth rarely have a welcoming entree through IQ into scientific studies. Similarly, students in countries adopting scientific study or STEM as part of their core curriculum rarely get introduced to IQ or other forms of indigenous knowledge unless they pursue more advanced studies. Social and emotional learning values, and exposure to a new model of thinking through IQ, will be bridged through integrated studies, and observing networks of narwhal research. The resulting six educational modules in both written and video formats will include Social, Environmental, Economic, STEM, ICE (Inuktitut Culture and Entrepreneurship), and a summary case study. The hybrid program will draw on examples from narwhal studies and include United Nations Sustainable Development Goals 4-5 and 8-17. Introduction of the educational modules to an initial 200 Inuit, Canadian and American youth in high school will introduce this new pathway for youth to enter both the STEM and IQ communities, and will test the feasibility of a larger scaled vision of Indigenous-STEM (I-STEM) based on an educational STEM program that includes indigenous knowledge.