

# 2021 Toolik Graduate Student & Postdoc Update

Student & Postdoc Representative

Jeffrey Peralá-Dewey

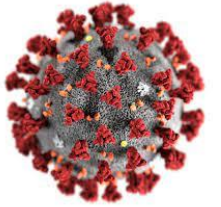
# 2021 Toolik Graduate Student & Postdoc Update

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- 13 survey respondents
- Lots of positive feedback and suggestions for improvements
- Mostly direct quotes, edited for clarity
- Topics:
  - COVID-19
  - Remote Access
  - Transportation
  - Research Support
  - Lab Space
  - Toolik Life
  - Title IX
  - Tundra Award



# COVID-19 - Praise



## Communication

- Slack is pretty nice to use!
- making quarantine policies clear
- Having a clear plan if something went wrong is great.
- clearly identifying the quarantine requirements and facilitating these with ARO logistics

## Remote Access

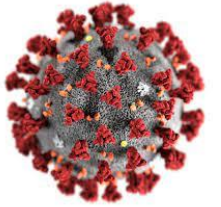
- invaluable
- incredible resource
- has made things a lot easier
- Toolik staff have done an exceptional job

## General

- Toolik staff has done a wonderful job managing lodging and laboratory spaces at Toolik
- They were diligent with keeping COVID out of camp and arranging quarantine accommodations.
- Toolik has done a great job taking things seriously



# COVID-19 - Suggestions



## Transparency

- transparency into the **decision making process** could help researchers make plans
- right now it's impossible to get a sense of **what conditions might allow easing** of quarantine rules and what would not
- Work to **separate UAF pandemic-related policies** from Toolik

## Quarantine Issues

- Pay field station staff for all the days they are in quarantine
- It's really hard to **plan and pay for quarantine**
- provide quarantine funding to **non-NSF funded** researchers
- impact of repeated quarantine on those who **must go back and forth** needs to be accounted for better

## Vaccines

- Integrating vaccines into the covid policy
- Replace the quarantine requirement with a vaccination requirement

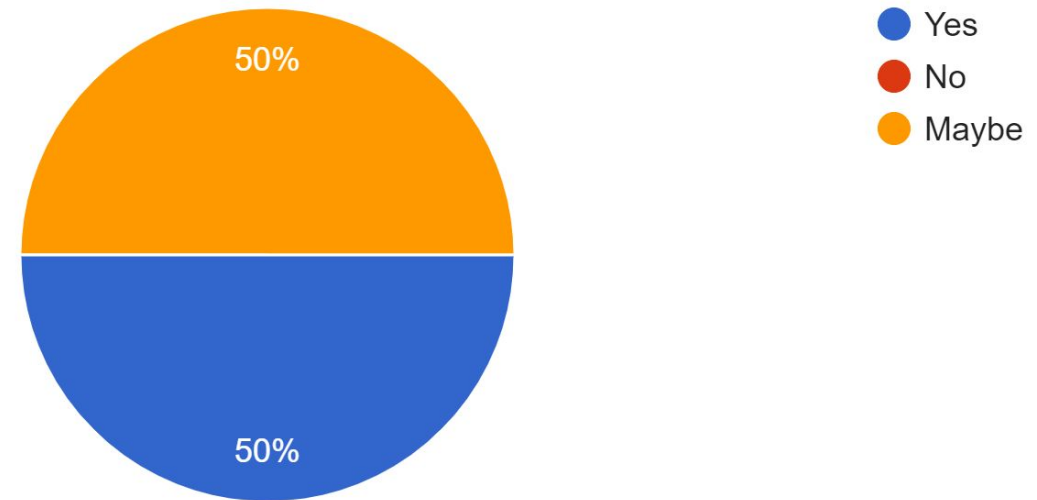
# Remote Access

- exceptional support from the Toolik field staff
- I have exactly 0 complaints
- Having field assistants that can help when your whole team is unable to be together is priceless

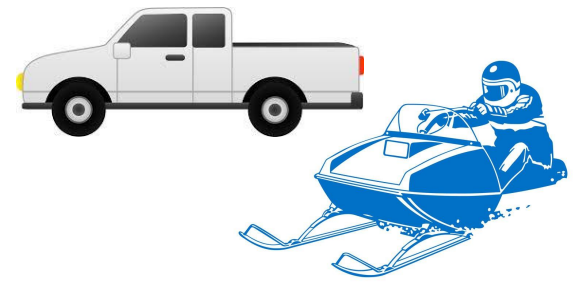
## Suggestions:

- sometimes hard to coordinate troubleshooting efforts since there is not internet at the site
- Shoulder season support

*Would you continue to use Toolik's remote access after COVID-19 restrictions have lifted?*



# Transportation – at Toolik



## Flexibility and Availability

- sufficient instructions for members of all levels to follow
- Flexibility with checking out helicopter and trucks works well
- I often depend on Science trucks to be available on a days notice and I was impressed that this was never an issue.

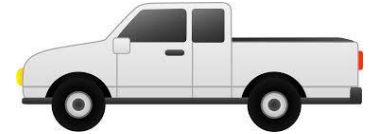
## Refueling

- Getting gas can sometimes be difficult
- Feel bad asking FOA to help- they are very busy, and sometimes I don't remember until it is inconvenient for them

## Other

- Installing a plug for heated visors on all snowmachines would make things a bit more comfortable (and having compatible helmet visors available)

# Transportation – to Toolik



I thought it **worked really well**, and there was enough flexibility given advanced notice that the **frequency could be altered slightly**. I REALLY appreciated the willingness to be flexible since my group needed to arrive and leave on **specific days**.

# Research Support

## Common Use Logistics

system for signing out size-specific tools would be super helpful for getting the size-specific parts you need efficiently (drill bits, sockets, etc)



## Available Equipment

I wish I knew how much was available before coming there. For example, we bought rebar and trucked it up instead of using something from the pile.

## Specific Items

- A wiley mill to grind plant samples
- a chemical C:N analyzer





# Lab Spaces



## Lab Space Communication

- PI's with priority were **not always considerate** with space use
- Lab **assignments unclear** when PI's arrived and had priority
- **Office space** not always clearly defined

## Unclaimed Equipment

- Winter lab long-term storage of items for groups that **may or may not be** coming back
- generally unclear what equipment belongs to who, this can be **confusing for new comers**

## Other

- stools/chairs height often do not fit the tables in the labs
- tent across from the science workshop door would blow open in the wind and a big puddle formed in front of the door

# At Toolik - Praise

## Housing and Food

- Great housing arrangements
- love **single rooms in new dorms**
- The dorms are amazing and Gina & all the kitchen staff are so wonderful and talented.
- **Always love the food**

## Community

- I really appreciate all the work from everyone to keep it running smoothly!
- **Everyone - users, staff, etc. works together** to make the summer a good experience for everyone.
- Really appreciate this community

## Experience

- I cannot say enough about how **great of an experience it was** and I can't wait to go back
- Camp life is good!
- Everything at Toolik was great this past summer!

# At Toolik - Suggestions

## Spaces

- Exclusive **lounging space** like the staff have.
- More space for offices / **computer working areas**.
- Quiet spaces with tables, chairs and outlets to work. There used to be a **'library'** in the GIS trailer, but it was removed.

## Communication

- A more **streamlined communication system** for important announcements
- Writing announcements on the main board is good, but sometimes it doesn't fully explain what's going on and what steps users need to take
- An **email list or a set "announcement time"** at breakfast

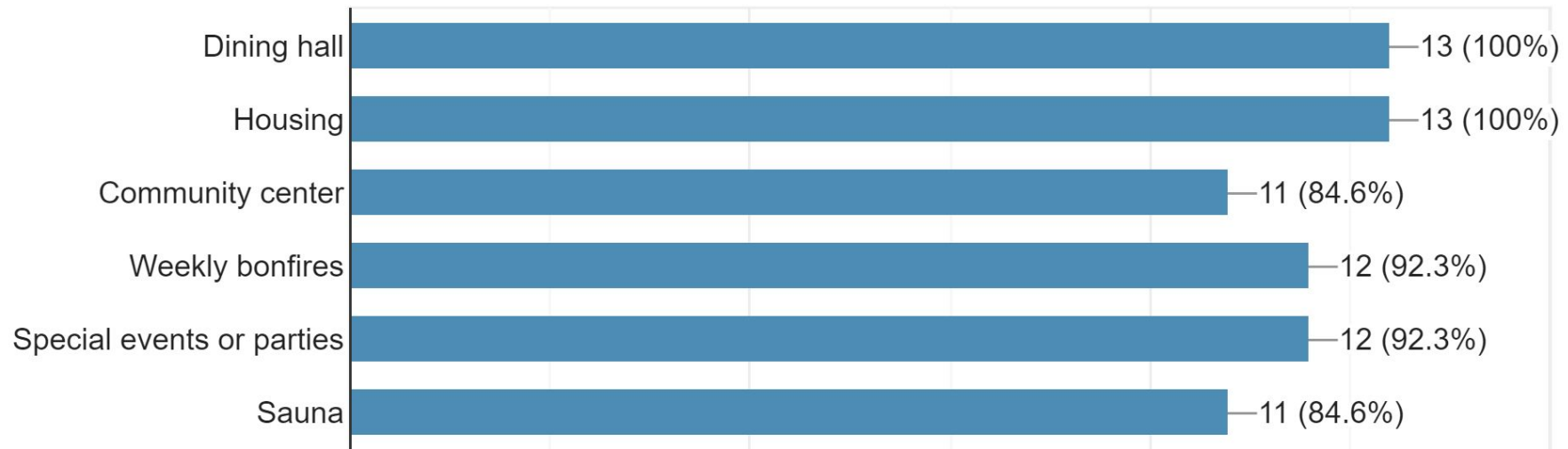
## Other

- Since graduate students are at Toolik for longer, **they should be provided with more comfortable housing than those who are there temporarily**
- Community center is dark and musty

# At Toolik

Where at Toolik Field Station do you feel safe, welcome, and comfortable? (check all that apply)

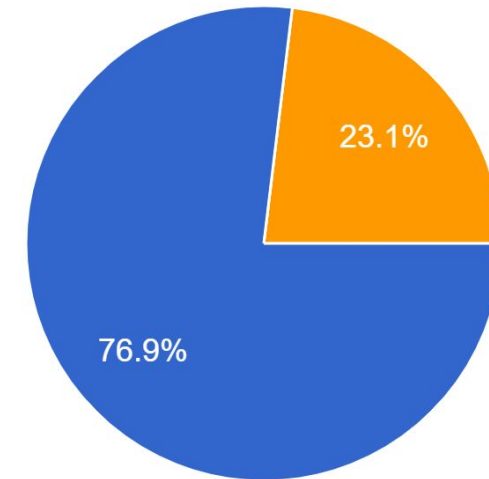
13 responses



# Title IX

- Training is straightforward, easy to follow, and clearly communicates expectations
- I appreciate Toolik's clear communication and commitment regarding Title IX issues
- Something more extensive is needed

*Do you understand Toolik's policies with regards to Title IX issues and how to report such issues at Toolik?*



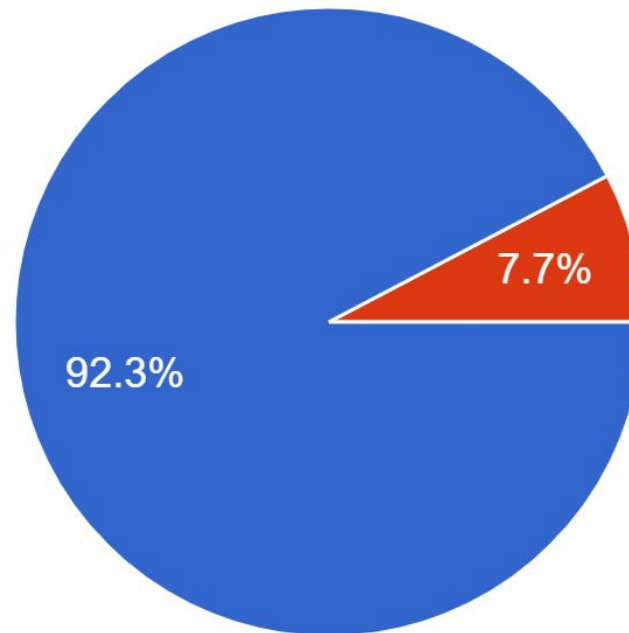
- Yes
- No
- I don't know off the top of my head, but I know where to find that information



# Tundra Award

“I think it likely serves students in Alaska well, but, coming from the lower 48 it isn’t quite enough to be that useful. I would still need a large amount of money to come to Toolik”

*Are you aware of Toolik’s Tundra award?*



“This is a great resource, and I would love to see it expanded to include helo time and community visits. People could be awarded some combination of user days, helo hours or funds to visit indigenous communities to present their research”

# Thank you's!

## FOAs

- Amanda
- Genevieve
- Manny

## Managers

- Justin
- Chad
- Faustine

*“All of them! I really appreciate the dedicated Toolik staff - couldn't ask for a better group of folks to help things go smoothly.”*

## Kitchen

- Laura
- Gina

## EDC

- Daniela
- Amanda
- Kela
- Mayra
- Randy
- Jorge
- Seth
- Colin

## Science Support

- Collin
- Cezanna
- Bodie
- Joe

*“Toolik staff members have all been extremely cheerful, helpful, supportive and responsive. We really appreciate all the efforts put in by all staff members.”*



Questions?

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Jeffrey Peralá-Dewey  
PhD Candidate  
Utah State University

[jeffrey.perala-dewey@usu.edu](mailto:jeffrey.perala-dewey@usu.edu)

