The purpose of this document is to invite you to participate in a two year research project that seeks to define the critical success factors for high growth sustainability entrepreneurship in rural and remote Alaska. The research is part of my PhD dissertation work as a student at Leeds Metropolitan University’s Innovation North. The research is likely to be published as part of my PhD thesis. It is also possible that the research will be submitted for publication in scientific/professional journals.

http://www.lmu.ac.uk/inn/

The methodology that we will use is called participatory action research.

The methods of action research, e.g., participatory scenario workshops, SWOT analysis, future creating workshops, networking methods and so on, can contribute to strengthen the structural as well as the temporal balancing acts of entrepreneurial processes. Such an integration of action research methods and entrepreneurial processes should be a joint effort of collaboration between action researchers and entrepreneurs in which both parts agree to learn from each other and to lift action research and entrepreneurship of the future into a perspective of long term sustainability Rasmussen & Nielsen, 2003, pp. 111-112).

Rick Wolk will work with insiders (individual entrepreneurs and their employees) and outsiders (members of the entrepreneur’s support team) in a cyclical research process of plan, act, observe and reflect. Rick will be responsible for writing up each cycle of work and the final paper but other work such as data collection, journal keeping, and audio recording of reflection sessions will be done collaboratively. Another important element that will be collaborative will be work to insure that both insiders’ (yours as a participant) and outsiders’ (mine) perspectives are included equally to form one final, complementary perspective. This will be accomplished through the practice of transcript sharing (draft sharing). Bartunek & Louis (1996) refer to this perspective as that of an “approximation of the uniquely insightful vantage of the marginal person… The parties, in a colloquial sense, keep each other honest-or at least more conscious than a single party working alone may easily achieve (p. 62). Van Maanen refers to this as a “jointly told tale” (1988, p. 136).

Consent agreement

I agree to participate with Rick Wolk in the research project described above. My participation is entirely voluntary and I understand that I may withdraw from this project at any time up until it is transcribed for use in the final report. Information that I provide and my participation will be kept confidential and anonymous unless I indicate otherwise. I understand that the information that I have submitted will be published as a report and I will be sent a copy. (Final approval to participate in this research resides with the Principal Investigator, Rick Wolk.)

_________________________       ______________________________  ______________
Print Name    Signature    Date

_________________________       ______________________________  ______________
Print Name    Signature    Date
References


