

Liam Frink, Ph.D.

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Biography

Research enterprise convener with dual experience in federal research portfolio management (NSF, Geoscience Directorate, Office of Polar Programs, IPA Program Director) and university-level research administration (UNLV Office of the VP for Research & Provost). Proven record of strategic institutional capacity-building, and interdisciplinary and community research development: launched campus-wide funding programs, creator of campus-wide grant training, scaled undergraduate research infrastructure, catalyst for federal interagency and community partnerships, and facilitator for community engaged science research and program initiatives. Author/editor of 4 books, co-editor of 20 volumes in University of Arizona Press series, and numerous peer-reviewed publications. PI/Co-PI on ~\$0.5M in sponsored awards. Recognized with system and college awards for scholarship.

Federal and Institutional Research Leadership

- U.S. National Science Foundation (NSF), 2022–2025 — Intergovernmental Personnel Act (IPA) Program Director, Geosciences Directorate, Office of Polar Programs, Arctic Social Sciences Program (ASSP). Led program portfolio management, and Interagency Arctic Research Policy Committee (IARPC) Participatory and Indigenous-Led Research (PILR) and Tribal Consultation and Effective Processes (TCEP) initiatives.
- Founding team member and chair, GEO-EMBRACE (EMpowering BRoader Academic Capacity & Education), a Geosciences Directorate-wide program designed to intentionally broaden participation and capacity at non-R1 institutions.
- Contributor to NSF Tribal Community Engagement Working Group, Navigating the New Arctic (NNA) cross-directorate effort, and BAJEDI (Belonging and Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion) initiatives.
- Participant, NSF Academy Leadership and Problem Solving Workshop.
- UNLV — Founding Executive Director, Office of Undergraduate Research: Built campus and community access points for student research, funding, and skills training; launched Summer Undergraduate Research Funding Initiative and undergraduate and High School Research Skills Academy.
- Provost Academic Affairs Fellow; Founding Director, Provost Faculty Mentor Program: Established inaugural faculty mentoring and onboarding model; improved early-career retention, satisfaction, and advancement.
- Research & Economic Development Executive Committee / Top Tier Initiative Chair: Advanced UNLV's R1 research infrastructure goals.
- Co-creator, "Get That Grant" Program: Comprehensive professional grant development for faculty and student researchers.

Education

University of Wisconsin–Madison — Ph.D. (2003)

Selected Community-Engaged Initiatives

- “Get That Grant” — Co-creator/Co-leader: Comprehensive training in proposal strategy, budgets, and review; training support for early-career faculty with measurable submission outcomes.
- Community Research Weeks & Public Forums — Lead/Organizer: Designed research lightning talks and open forums featuring faculty, students, and community and industry partners to surface local research priorities and opportunities.
- Arctic Community Partnerships — Long-term community-based research with Alaska Native communities emphasizing community based participatory research and responsive engagement.

Public & Civic Engagement (Selected)

- Las Vegas Rotary — Invited Featured Speaker (2018): “Mentoring and Your Future Career Success” for the Clark County School District (CCSD) Valedictorian Luncheon.
- 500 Women Scientists Community Event (2019): Invited Facilitator, Funding Workshop for STEM high school students.
- CCSD & UNLV Admissions Partnerships: Organized campus visits, talks, and research consults for Title I students and hosted National Merit Scholar recruits.
- Community and Industry Workshops: Trained various stakeholders in creating letters of recommendation; research pathways; college access programming for mentors and scholarship partners.

Selected Publications

- Frink, L. (2016). *A Tale of Three Villages: Indigenous-Colonial Engagements in Southwestern Alaska, 1740–1950*. University of Arizona Press.
- Hart, Oland & Frink (eds.) (2012). *Decolonizing Indigenous Histories*. University of Arizona Press.
- Harry, K.G., M. DeCespedes Molina, L. Frink, J.K. Covington, C.O. Seymore, D. Perez, and B.P. Hedlund (2025). Exploring potential lime use in hide processing on the Shivwits Plateau: An archaeological, experimental, and microbiological approach. *Journal of Archaeological Method and Theory*, 32:1–35.

Frink & Giordano (2015). “Women and subsistence food technology: The arctic seal poke storage system.” *Food and Foodways: Explorations in the History and Culture of Human Nourishment*.

- Frink (2003–2015, multiple). Articles on local technologies, land use, food, and cultural and historical context of development and socioeconomic change in Alaska Native rural villages (*American Anthropologist*; *American Antiquity*; *Current Anthropology*; *International Journal of Historical Archaeology*, etc.).

External Funding (Selected)

- National Science Foundation (NSF; multiple, PI/Co-PI) — community-based participatory research, experimental/ethnoarchaeological methods, and student research support.
- NSF Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant (Multiple, PI/Co-PI) — student training and collaborative fieldwork.
- Wenner-Gren Foundation — Richard Carley Hunt Postdoctoral Fellowship (community-centered archival and community-centered research).

Academic Recognition

- NSHE Regents' Rising Researcher Award
- UNLV Barrick Scholar Award
- College of Liberal Arts William Morris Award for Excellence in Scholarship
- Lied Library Faculty Teaching Institute Fellow

Research Interests and Professional Development Skills Training

Research: Rural and suburban community engaged research; Economic, technology, contemporary and historical interactions and transitions; ethnographic methods; Arctic & Midwest U.S.

Skills competency training for students: Interdisciplinary Community Engaged Science; Comprehensive STEM grant proposal development training.