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Anchorage, Alaska

STATE OF ALASKA

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release: February 23, 2021

## **DGGS employee Cheryl Cameron wins USGS award for volcano work**

**(Fairbanks, AK)** – Cheryl Cameron, a geologist and project manager with the Alaska Division of Geological and Geophysical Surveys (DGGS), has received an award from the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) for outstanding service in managing scientific data and public information about Alaska volcanoes.

Cameron’s work designing and maintaining the Geologic Database of Information on Volcanoes in Alaska (GeoDIVA), along with her efforts to archive and share multidisciplinary information about volcanoes through scientific channels and social media, have helped the Alaska Volcano Observatory (AVO) earn international recognition as a valuable source of information, the award citation said.

“(Cameron’s) efforts have directly and positively impacted the AVO’s ability to serve information about Alaska’s many volcanoes to the scientific community and the public,” said the award citation, signed by USGS Director Jim Reilly. USGS is part of the U.S. Department of the Interior, which issues the “Citizen’s Award for Exceptional Service” to agency partners for outstanding support of its mission. DGGS is a division of the Alaska Department of Natural Resources.

Staffed with employees from USGS, DGGS and the University of Alaska Fairbanks, the AVO monitors volcanoes and issues alerts warning aviators and others about disruptive, unhealthy and potentially fatal volcanic activity. Cameron maintains GeoDIVA, a comprehensive relational database on volcanoes in Alaska, one of the world’s most active regions for volcanic activity.

“Cheryl is an absolute rock -- an educated, dedicated and motivated member of our team, and it’s a joy to have her working for us on GeoDIVA,” said DGGS Director Steve Masterman. “I couldn’t be prouder to see her work on behalf of Alaskans get recognized at the highest levels of our federal partner agency.”

Janet Schaefer, Cameron’s supervisor at DGGS, said, “We are all very proud of Cheryl and so appreciative of her service to AVO.”

Cameron joined DGGGS in 2001 after earning bachelor's and master's degrees in geology and working several years as an exploration geologist in Alaska's Interior. She is a lifelong Alaskan, originally from Sitka.

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