

Dr. Catherine (Cathy) F. Cahill is the Director of the Alaska Center for Unmanned Aircraft Systems Integration (ACUASI) in the Geophysical Institute at the University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF). Cathy has a B.S. in Applied Physics from the University of California, Davis, M.S. in Atmospheric Sciences from the University of Washington, and a Ph.D. in Atmospheric Sciences from the University of Nevada Reno and the Desert Research Institute. After graduating with her Ph.D., Cathy embarked on Fulbright Fellowship to Ireland to study trans-Atlantic air pollution transport. After a brief stint back in the contiguous United States, she migrated north to Alaska to join UAF in 1998 as an Assistant Professor of Chemistry (specialty - Atmospheric Chemistry). Cathy's research focused on the sources, transport, and transformation of atmospheric aerosols, including wildfire smoke, and their impacts on visibility, global climate, and human health. Cathy began building air pollution samplers for UAS in 2006. In 2015, after reaching the level of Full Professor and returning from a 19-month Congressional Fellowship to the U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, Cathy became the Director of ACUASI. ACUASI leads one of the seven Federal Aviation Administration UAS Test Sites, heads the FAA's Alaska BEYOND site, and is a core university in the FAA's Center of Excellence for UAS Research (ASSURE). Cathy served as a member of the FAA's Drone Advisory Committee/ Advanced Aviation Advisory Committee, and frequently advises Governmental entities on issues related to drones and counter-drone technologies.