November 5, 2013

Dear IRIS Member Representative,

There are lots of exciting activities to review at the IRIS Membership Meeting this year. We will celebrate the initiation of a new five-year Cooperative Agreement with NSF, report on the status of the search for a new President and elect a new Chair to lead the Board of Directors as well as new Board members. In spite of very tight financial times, NSF's commitment to five years of support provides a solid foundation for sustaining our core programs and moving the Transportable Array to Alaska. Other smaller awards expand IRIS involvement with ocean sciences and EarthCube, and sustain collaboration with educational and international partners. The IRIS programs and the services the Consortium provides remain strong.

The active participation of all Member Institutions is essential to the Consortium's health. One of the most important ways in which you, as a Member Representative, can influence the future of IRIS is through your thoughtful participation in the election of members to the Board of Directors. I strongly encourage you to take this responsibility seriously.

After careful deliberations, the Nominations Committee appointed by the Board has approached a carefully selected group of talented individuals, as listed on the enclosed ballot, to confirm their willingness to serve as your representatives in Consortium leadership.

This year I complete my three-year term as Board Chair and the nominating committee has identified Anne Meltzer for a new 3-year term as Board Chair. This opens a two-year term on the Board to replace Anne. Gabi Laske has agreed to run for this term. Matt Fouch has announced that he will be leaving Carnegie Institution and thus needs to resign from the Board with one-year left on his term. Kate Miller, who has had previous Board experience, has agreed to run for this position. The remaining slate presented by the Nominations Committee includes four excellent candidates from IRIS Member Institutions to fill the additional two open three-year slots on the Board.

Please visit the IRIS website to review the statements from all the excellent candidates and vote for the candidates you feel will bring the most effective and balanced leadership to the IRIS Board. I urge you to use the mail-in ballot, as this will streamline the election process. Please return the ballot with the signed proxy to IRIS by December 2, 2013.

Please join me in thanking the other retiring Board members – Paul Davis, Matt Fouch, and Jeroen Tromp, - for their outstanding service. They have helped guide IRIS through the development and successful review of our 5-year proposal and refocused our governance structure. Along with all of our committee members, they have contributed a significant amount of their time to ensure the success of IRIS.

Your participation and advice are critical as IRIS continues to develop new and exciting approaches to support your research and educational needs.

Sincerely,

Brian Stump
Chair, IRIS Board of Directors

The IRIS Consortium

Incorporated Research Institutions for Seismology

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