WPO NEWSLETTER **JULY 2020**

NOAA's Weather Program Office

formerly the Office of Weather and Air Quality

Photo: NOAA Weather Program Office (2019)

VOL. 3

WEATHER PROGRAM OFFICE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Research

About WPO

The NOAA Weather Program Office supports world-class weather research to save lives, reduce property damage, and enhance the national economy. We are located at 1315 East-West Highway, 10th floor, Silver Spring, MD 20910 in NOAA's Office of Atmospheric Research.

VISION: A Weather-Ready Nation informed by world-class weather research.

MISSION: Finding, funding, and fostering collaborative weather and air quality research to discover, develop, and transition products, tools, and services for timely and accurate weather forecasts.

Ominous wall cloud portending possible violent weather.
Credit: Jerry Penry, Registered Land Surveyor (2010).

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Dr. Kandis Boyd
WPO Deputy Director

Letter from the Deputy Director

NOAA's Weather Program Office is continuing to support our vision and mission through the transition of world-class weather research into operations.

The WPO team seamlessly transitioned to mandatory telework in March 2020, as a result of the COVID-19 global pandemic, and I'm proud of each team member as they have been resilient in pushing forward to ensure that the work continues to gets done. Despite the challenges, WPO has onboarded six new staff members, including WPO's first William M. Lapenta NWS Student Intern; prepared for the release of our newest Notice of Funding Opportunity; and met and/or exceeded our Annual Operation Plan (AOP) goals by the end of FYQ3 (June 30).

In the midst of racial unrest and a public health pandemic, we have also formed a Diversity & Inclusion working group sparked by the untimely death of George Floyd to discuss how we can be change agents within the weather enterprise. Over the next couple of months, we will strengthen our partnerships with Academia, Principal Investigators and other Federal agencies by:

- Publishing our Notice of Funding Opportunity for Fiscal Year 2021 (FY21);
- Hosting our Virtual Partners Meeting on September 25th, which will assist us in shaping our Annual Accomplishments and Strategic Plan Report for 2022-2024;
- Hosting a Principal Investigators Virtual Meeting on September 28th, which is a forum for all funding recipients to gain a better understanding of the NOFO process within WPO.

As WPO continues to prioritize inclusive research that saves lives, reduces property damages, and enhances the national economy, we celebrate:

8 Members of WPO participated in the NOAA Readiness Levels Workshop on May 8.

11 JTTI (including 5 FACETs), 10 EPIC, 1 Precipitation Grand Challenge transition plans were presented to and reviewed by NWS Service Delivery Portfolios and approved to proceed.

17 Number of WPO projects reaching Readiness-Level 8 (ready for transition to operations.

40 Number of peer-reviewed publications documenting WPO-supported work.

We are strong, we are resilient, we are WPO. I hope you enjoy the team's highlights in this newsletter.

Dr. Kandis Boyd

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[Supporting world-class weather research to save lives, reduce property damage, and enhance the national economy.]

NOAA's Weather Program Office will be holding its ***1st Virtual Partners Meeting*** on September 25, 2020 from 10 am - 5 pm ET/ 7 am - 3 pm PT by bringing together academia, other Federal agencies, Principle/Principal Investigators (PIs), other NOAA line offices, and the greater research enterprise for a collaborative event that will provide an important platform to learn about and discuss WPOs priorities, dependencies, and initiatives for FY21-25.

This meeting will be an excellent opportunity for WPO's partners and customers to collaborate with the goal of ensuring awareness and alignment for continued strategic planning in alignment with our mission and vision. You will also have Q&A sessions with an award-winning team of scientific and technical program managers that have spearheaded innovative programs and leadership in atmospheric science.

The draft agenda is still being developed.

Pre-register here: bit.ly/326C1oC

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EPIC HIGHLIGHTS

Request for Proposals (RFP)A

The Earth Prediction Innovation Center (EPIC) Request for Proposals (RFP) will close on July 27, 2020. EPIC will create a community earth system model, initially focusing on the operational weather prediction system, which is accessible to the public and utilizes innovative strategies to host and manage the modeling system. EPIC will leverage existing NOAA resources to accelerate advances to the Unified Forecast System (UFS), a community-based, state of the science, coupled Earth system model designed to impact NOAA's operational forecast mission to protect life and property and improve economic growth. For more information, please visit BetaSAM.gov.

OAR Cloud WorkshopA

The Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR) Cloud Tiger Team is hosted a Cloud Workshop from July 20-23, 2020. The workshop theme was ***To the Cloud in OAR: From Discussion to Action*** with a planned outcome of being better prepared to engage with Cloud Service Providers in an informed way. This workshop was held virtually and was open to participants with a noaa.gov email address.

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EPIC HIGHLIGHTS

EPIC Welcomes a Dr. William M. Lapenta Student Summer InternA

Favorite Quote
Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It's not.
- Dr. Seuss

The EPIC Team is excited to be hosting Donald Long Jr., a **Dr. William M. Lapenta Student Summer Intern**! Donald has been a National Weather Service (NWS) Pathways intern for two years and is also a rising Atmospheric Science graduate student at Howard University.

Prior to serving as a Graduate Teaching Assistant at the University of North Dakota for a year, he earned his B.S. in Meteorology from Valparaiso University in 2019. This summer, Donald will be working alongside members of WPO's Earth Prediction Innovation Center (EPIC) program on the Unified Forecast System (UFS). He will conduct a comparative analysis of the system requirements necessary to run the UFS model in both high-performance computing and cloud architectures. The goal is to identify what will be needed to "house" and run the UFS in the cloud. Donald will relay his experience running the model and provide detailed suggestions to the EPIC team about the process of building, compiling, and running the UFS in the cloud to make the experience as user-friendly as possible.

Donald wants to combine his interest in weather with his passion for social justice and activism in the future. He plans on pursuing advanced degrees in both Atmospheric Science and Sociology at Howard. In his spare time, Donald enjoys listening to music, playing the clarinet, podcasting, reading, and promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion.

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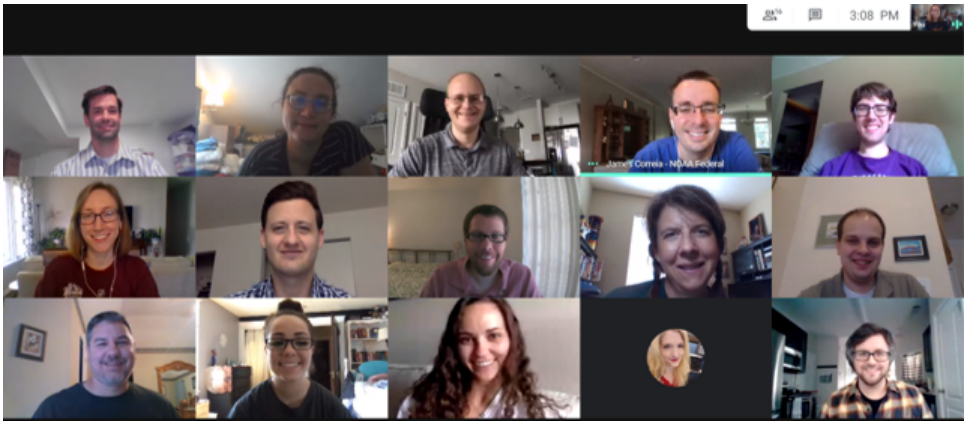
TESTBEDS HIGHLIGHTS

Week 1 FFaIR participants.

The Hydrometeorological Testbed (HMT) hosted the annual Flash Flood and Intense Rainfall Experiment (FFaIR) virtually from June 15 to July 17, 2020. National Weather Service (NWS) forecasters from across the country participated in the experiment to test out innovative forecast tools to aid in improving the prediction of short-term quantitative precipitation and flash flood forecasts.

New forecast tools were tested and evaluated in real-time by forecasters over the course of a week for each session. WPO provides funding to several projects being tested through FFaIR as well as to HMT for infrastructure used to conduct the experiment. Several Weather Program Office (WPO) funded principal investigators presented their research to experiment participants.

The FFaIR experiment has been run annually since 2012, focusing on improving forecasting methods for heavy rainfall and flash flooding. FFaIR provides a pathway for accelerating WPO-funded research into operations.



Week 2 FFaIR participants.

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WPO [SPOTLIGHT]

Here we celebrate members of our our award-winning scientific and technical team that continue to become leaders in the field of atmospheric science.

Gina Eosco, PhD, WPO Social Science & FACETs Program Manager, participated in the Introduction to Environmental Security Webinar and theme for 2022 AMS Annual Meeting in June 2020.

Jordan Dale is the new Air Quality and Testbeds Program Manager.

Leah Dubots is now the Management and Program Analyst supporting EPIC.

Kandis Boyd, PhD, WPO Deputy DIrector, will be moderating the Silver Spring Chapter of 500 Women Scientists 2020 Women's Equality Day on August 26th.

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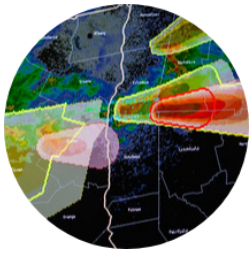

Several members of WPO participated in the 2020 NOAA Testbeds and Proving Grounds Annual Meeting April 7-8.

113

Number of conference, workshop, and invited presentations of **WPO-supported work**.

#WOMENOFNOAA

In 2019, the WOMENOFNOAA campaign was created to celebrate the women in the offices, labs and the field supporting NOAA's mission. We have featured women from the Silver Spring Headquarters to the Great Lakes and those manning our ships at sea. We invite all women to share their story with NOAA and the greater scientific community through this ongoing opportunity.

If you are interested in participating please contact Chantel Bivins, Web/Communications Specialist, at chantel.bivins@noaa.gov.

For the latest article click here.

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WPO [NEWS]

The redesigned WPO National ESPC website has officially launched!

The National Earth System Prediction Capability (National ESPC) seeks improve environmental predictions and help decision makers address critical policy and planning issues by extending the National predictive capability from hours and days to seasonal, annual, and decadal time periods through improved, coupled global environmental prediction. Visit their new website.

WPO & NOAA Library Collaborate

NOAA Institutional Repository

The Weather Program Office (WPO) in conjunction with the NOAA Library has collaborated to create a collection page for the NOAA Institutional Repository, for the Weather Research and Forecasting Innovation Act of 2017 (the Weather Act). This collection provides access to documents submitted to Congress from NOAA's Line Offices in response to the Weather Act, describing NOAA's efforts and strategies to improve hurricane, tornado, tsunami, and seasonal forecasting, and commercial weather data. For more information, please see the links for the Weather Act libguide and the Weather Act collection page.

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WELCOME TO THE TEAM

WEATHER PROGRAM OFFICE
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[NEW EMPLOYEES]

Henrique Alves, PhD
Research Physical Scientist supporting EPIC

Shahaira Davy
Management & Program Analyst/COR

Kenny James
Research Physical Scientist supporting EPIC

Aaron Pratt, PhD
JTTI Program Coordinator

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