

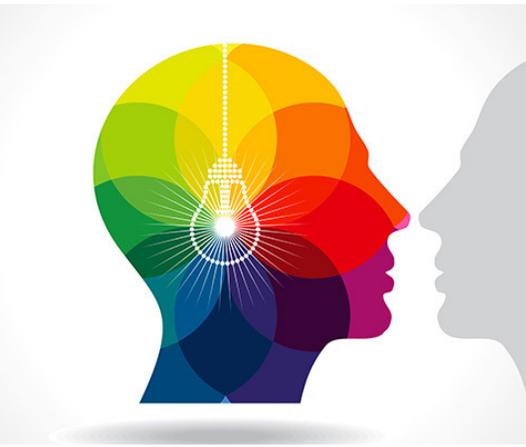


WEATHER PROGRAM OFFICE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Research
formerly the Office of Weather and Air Quality

Newsletter

Volume 4



WPO: Supporting world-class research to advance timely and accurate weather information

November 2020





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).





WEATHER PROGRAM OFFICE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Research

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1315 East-West Highway, 10th floor
Silver Spring, MD 20910
<https://wpo.noaa.gov>





Dr. Russell "Russ" Schneider
WPO Acting Director

Letter from the Acting Director

NOAA's Weather Program Office (WPO) has had numerous personnel changes in the past year, as Kandis Boyd left for a wonderful opportunity at the National Science Foundation (NSF), and WPO has an interim Acting Director and Acting Deputy. Throughout these changes, and with the continuing COVID-19 global pandemic, we remain dedicated to assisting NOAA in observing and improving critical weather and air quality prediction capabilities.

By supporting the physical science and engineering efforts that lead to new scientific discoveries and utilizing social science to learn how to deal with the uncertainties, we are ensuring that our funded research supports our vision of world-class weather research that will save lives, reduce property damage, and enhance the national economy.

Our engagement and communication with researchers, funders, and the public are instrumental for us to strategically align our efforts. The following components are vital to WPO transitioning weather research to operations:

- The weather research done by our **12 scientific programs**;
- Building and maintaining **a diverse and inclusive workforce**; and
- Building **long-lasting partnerships with members of the weather enterprise and the non-scientific community**.



Annual Accomplishments FY2018 >>

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Dr. Russell "Russ" Schneider
WPO Acting Director

Letter from the Acting Director continued

Last summer, WPO published our Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO), soliciting research toward improving weather, water, air quality, earth-system modeling and observations, and social, behavioral, and economic science applications valued at approximately \$7.75 million per fiscal year. WPO programs are currently processing a large number of exciting research proposals.

In addition, through WPO's consistent efforts, our other major accomplishments include:

- An **umbrella multi-project transition plan** signed by the National Weather Service;
- **Three Joint Technology Transfer Initiative (JTII)** funded projects transitioned to NWS operations, including the official operational implementation of the Multi-Radar Multi-Sensor (MRMS) v12; and
- the **Onboarding of new federal and contract employees and interns** through our partnerships with Cherokee Nation Business, Cherokee Federal and internal transfers at NOAA.

WPO's strategic goals form the cornerstone and baseline for the work that we do, ensuring that we remain aligned with NOAA's mission. While WPO has undergone significant personnel and work changes in the past year or more, adherence to our core strategic goals and values allows us to continue meeting our commitments and NOAA's mission.

Russell Schneider
Acting WPO Director



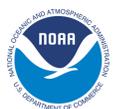
EPIC HIGHLIGHTS

EPIC Program Communications Support: Increasing UFS and Community Modeling Engagement



The Earth Prediction Innovations Center (EPIC) Program has successfully developed and rolled-out a communications strategy supporting community modeling, initially focusing on the Unified Forecast System (UFS). Alongside the UFS Communications and Outreach working group, the EPIC team helped produce the UFS Community summer newsletter, supported the publication of a Graduate Student Test for a new release of the UFS Medium-Range Weather app, and developed an integrated social media strategy with support from NOAA Communications.

In addition to the publication of the UFS Summer Newsletter, the EPIC program mediated a TEDx talk on November 14th, 2020 about community modeling. The Georgetown TEDx event featured Dr. Hendrik Tolman, Senior Advisor for Advanced Modeling Systems at the National Weather Service. Dr. Tolman's also discussed weather forecast innovations through customer engagement and emerging technologies: *"In the 1990's, we had a lot of great scientists within the National Weather Service, which meant that we largely worked on our own. Fast forward to now, there are so many more people working in this field that it makes sense to work with bigger teams."*





SOCIAL SCIENCE HIGHLIGHTS



Photo Credit: NOAA National Weather Service

Special Call for Proposals: Weather Ready Research

NOAA's Weather Program Office funded, in partnership with the National Severe Storms Laboratory (NSSL) and the National Weather Service (NWS), an National Science Foundation (NSF) supplemental to the University of Colorado's Natural Hazards Center Quick Response Research Program to create a "Weather-Ready Quick Response Program."

The Natural Hazards Center is issuing the first of four special calls for proposals for social, behavioral, and economic sciences to advance understanding of how to most effectively prepare for and communicate about extreme weather, water, and climate events.

This new initiative is designed to advance knowledge while also building a diverse cadre of weather-ready researchers. For more information, please click [here](#).



PROGRAMMATIC HIGHLIGHTS

WPO By The Numbers

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New operational transitions were completed in October 2020 when products from three JTTI projects were implemented as part of Version 12 of the operational Multi-Radar Multi-Sensor (MRMS) platform.

20

WPO projects produced results that have been deemed in FY20 ready for operational transition to NWS (i.e., reached Readiness Level 8). These include projects funded through the JTTI, Air Quality, Climate Testbed, Hazardous Weather Testbed, Hydrometeorological Testbed, and Joint Hurricane Testbed programs.

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New R2O Transition plans were briefed to NWS Service Delivery Portfolios and moved forward toward approval and implementation. Proposed transitions were from projects funded in FY18-20 through the JTTI, EPIC, Air Quality, and Precipitation Grand Challenge programs.





PROGRAMMATIC HIGHLIGHTS

WPO By The Numbers



R2O transition plans were approved by NWS leadership, demonstrating a commitment to the path for these projects towards operations. These projects were funded in FY17-19 through the JTTI, EPIC, and FACETs programs.

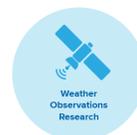
WPO projects contributed nearly 50 peer-reviewed publications to the scientific community in FY20, in addition to over 150 conference presentations, seminars, and/or invited presentations. More information about WPO's annual totals will be made available as part of its upcoming Annual Accomplishments Report for FY20.

Despite maximum telework, WPO published its annual **Notice of Funding Opportunity**, focused on supporting new research projects through the JTTI, Weather Observations Research, and Social Science programs. The office coordinated this year's research priorities with various National Weather Service offices. After publication, WPO received a record number of preliminary Letters of Intent from potential applicants, averaging over 70 per competition.

Resources

For all WPO programs click [here](#).

For programs funded through our FY21 NOFO click the icon to the right.





WEATHER PROGRAM OFFICE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Research

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, received the OAR Daniel L. Albritton Outstanding Science Communicator Award.



Dr. Russell S. Schneider, Director, NOAA-NWS Storm Prediction Center has been named the Acting Director of the NOAA Weather Program Office. For more on Dr. Schneider click [here](#).



Dr. Jessie Carman, the Program Manager for WPO's Subseasonal to Seasonal (S2S) program and National Earth System Prediction Capability (ESPC) has been named WPO's Acting Deputy Director. For more on Dr. Carman click [here](#).





WEATHER PROGRAM OFFICE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Research

WPO [NEWS]

We are hiring a Hurricane Supplemental Coordinator

Cherokee Federal and NOAA's Weather Program Office are seeking an engineer or scientist to provide program support to the WPO Hurricane Supplemental portfolio. Learn [more](#).

The Weather Act Sec. 201: S2S report is available

The Weather Act Sec. 201: S2S report has been posted to the Weather Act collection of the NOAA Institutional Repository (IR), and made available to the public. To view the report click [here](#).

WPO released the FY21 Notice of Funding Opportunity

In August, WPO released its FY21 NOFO which accepted proposals from August 12, 2020, through November 18, 2020. This opportunity focused on Joint Technology Transfer Initiative (JTII), Weather Observations and Social Science. Learn [more](#).



#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.

The latest article features [NOAA GLERL's Andrea Vander Woude, PhD](#). To learn more, click [here](#).



WELCOME TO THE TEAM



[NEW EMPLOYEES]

Tavia Cummings

Logistics Coordinator (Contractor)



Felicia Guarriello

Testbeds Coordinator (Contractor)



Valbona Kunkel, PhD

NOAA Atmospheric Scientist
R2O Coordinator (Contractor)



Castle Williams, PhD

Social Science
Program Coordinator (Contractor)



Levi Matthews

Budget Analyst



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