



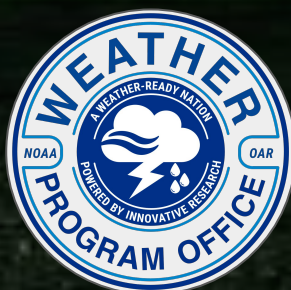
NOAA
WEATHER
PROGRAM OFFICE

2023 Annual Accomplishments Report



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Acronyms



CPAESS	<i>Cooperative Programs for the Advancement of Earth System Science</i>
DEIA / DEIJA	<i>Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, (Justice), and Accessibility</i>
DESI	<i>Dynamic Ensemble-based Scenarios for IDSS</i>
EPIC	<i>Earth Prediction Innovation Center</i>
EPP / MSI	<i>Education Partnership Program / Minority Serving Institution</i>
ESRM	<i>Earth System Research and Modeling Division</i>
ICAMS	<i>Interagency Council for Advancing Meteorological Services</i>
IDSS	<i>Impact-based Decision Support Services</i>
JTTI	<i>Joint Technology Transfer Initiative</i>
LOI	<i>Letters of Intent</i>
M&A	<i>Management and Administration Division</i>
NBM_s	<i>National Blended Models</i>
NMME	<i>North American Multi-Model Ensemble</i>
NOAA	<i>National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration</i>
NOFO	<i>Notice of Funding Opportunity</i>
NSSL	<i>National Severe Storms Laboratory</i>
NWS	<i>National Weather Service</i>
OAR	<i>Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research/ NOAA Research</i>
OBS	<i>Observations Program</i>
ORS	<i>Observations and Research Support Division</i>
PAR	<i>Phased Array Radar</i>
R2O / R2X	<i>Research to Operations / Research Transitions</i>
R&D	<i>Research and Development</i>
S2S	<i>Sub-Seasonal to Seasonal</i>
SPARK	<i>System for Public Access to Research Knowledge</i>
SS / SBES	<i>Social Science / Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences</i>
STS	<i>Science, Technology, and Society Division</i>
STEM	<i>Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics</i>
TBs	<i>Testbeds</i>
UCAR	<i>University Corporation for Atmospheric Research</i>
UFS	<i>Unified Forecast System</i>
VORTEX	<i>Verification of the Origins of Rotation in Tornadoes EXperiment</i>
WCOSS	<i>Weather and Climate Operational Supercomputing System</i>
WPC	<i>Weather Prediction Center</i>
WPO	<i>Weather Program Office</i>

Letter from the Acting Director



Greetings from OAR Headquarters and the Hawaiian Islands!

I am honored to present the hallmark accomplishments of NOAA's Weather Program Office (WPO) for Fiscal Year 2023 (FY23) - a year full of phenomenal change and development, while remaining committed to our primary mission of fostering research to improve weather forecasts, save lives, and reduce property damage. From the successful execution of our inaugural program review and much-anticipated release of our new DEIJA strategic plan, to the creation of four new organizational divisions, the accomplishments reflected in this report represent the collective intellect, dedication, hard work, and innovation from a wonderful team.

Over the last eight years, WPO experienced a 330% increase in the number of programs we manage and 440% increase in our base and supplemental budgets, coupled with a workforce increase from 10 in 2016 to an amazing team of 43 this year. With such rapid growth, we needed a new organizational structure and management paradigm to help guide our priorities and activities. These changes align with our FY22-26 strategic plan.

In FY23, WPO established four divisions: three of which focus on our mission of funding applied weather research, while the fourth provides essential oversight and guidance to the entire office. The four newly created divisions work collaboratively to fulfill the WPO mission of "cultivating, funding, and transitioning collaborative weather research that results in accurate and actionable weather information for all." I am proud of all the achievements detailed in the following pages, and even prouder of the people who accomplished them. As you will see, WPO truly embodies NOAA's mission of, "Science, Service, Stewardship." To everyone at WPO - thank you all for a job well done!

Best Regards,

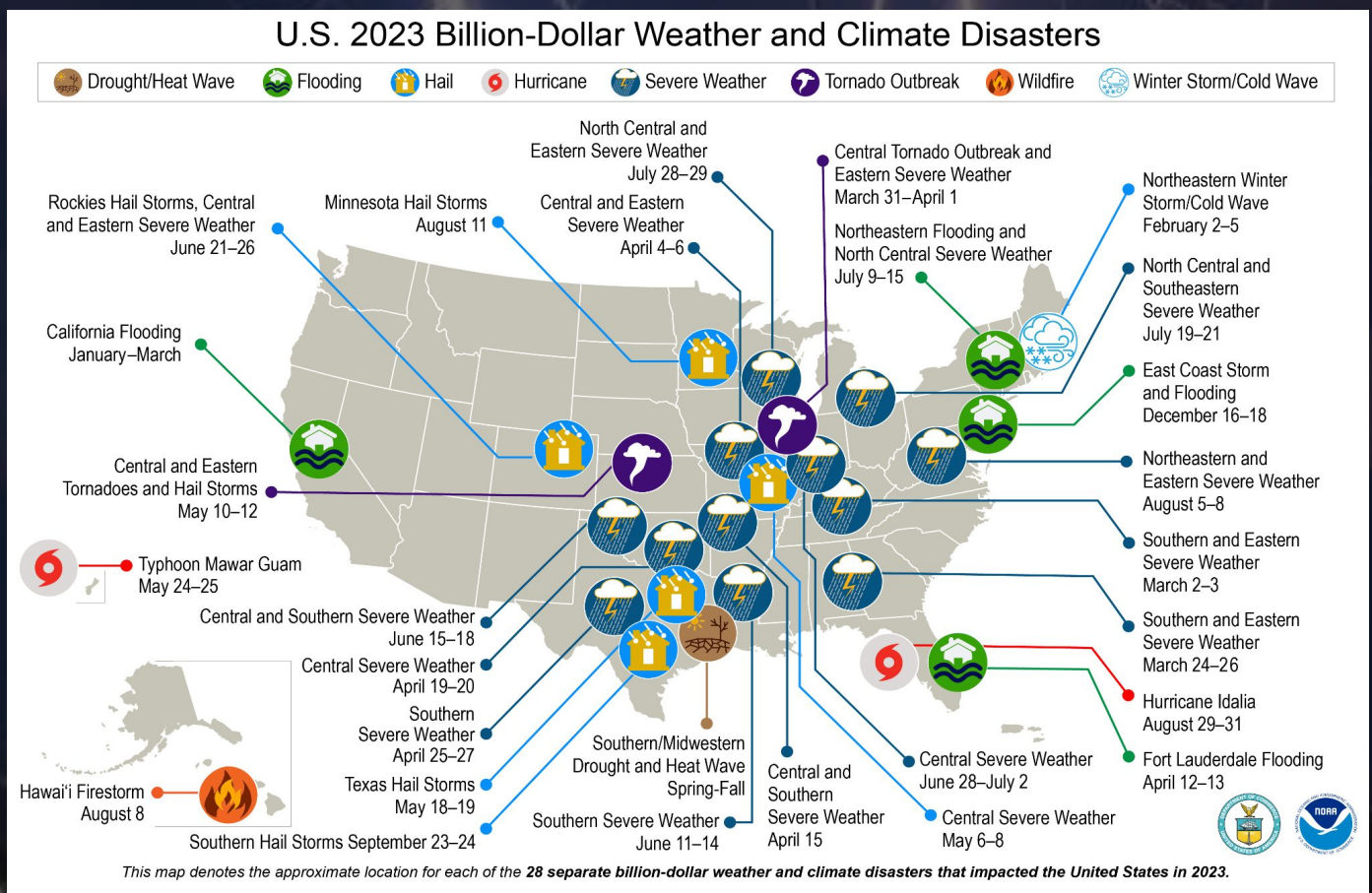
Preface

Funding Research to Improve Forecasts

The Weather Program Office (WPO) is within the Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR, also known as NOAA Research). Our aim is to integrate world class weather research into operational forecasts for the public, support new weather applications across the Weather Enterprise, and continually improve our understanding of weather phenomena.

At the intersection of the Weather Enterprise, WPO works to facilitate a strong and growing weather research network throughout NOAA, while fostering collaborations with other Federal and non-Federal agencies, institutions, academia, and the private sector.

The United States experienced 28 weather/climate disasters in 2023, the most in any one year since 1980, resulting in losses exceeding \$1 billion each. Events included 1 drought, 4 major floods, 19 severe storms, 2 tropical cyclones, 1 winter storm, and 1 wildfire. Overall, these events resulted in 492 deaths and had significant economic effects on the impacted areas. Climate change will continue to make weather more severe, costly, and in many cases harder to forecast. WPO's work is vital for keeping pace with this imperative challenge!



WPO Mission

Cultivating, funding, and transitioning collaborative weather research that results in accurate and actionable weather information for all.

Strategic Goals

Goal 1

Foster a collaborative weather R&D network with the Weather Enterprise

Goal 3

Contribute to the UFS through a community-based, Earth system modeling approach.

Goal 2

Improve high-impact weather forecasts, products and services, and their delivery, use, and value to the public.

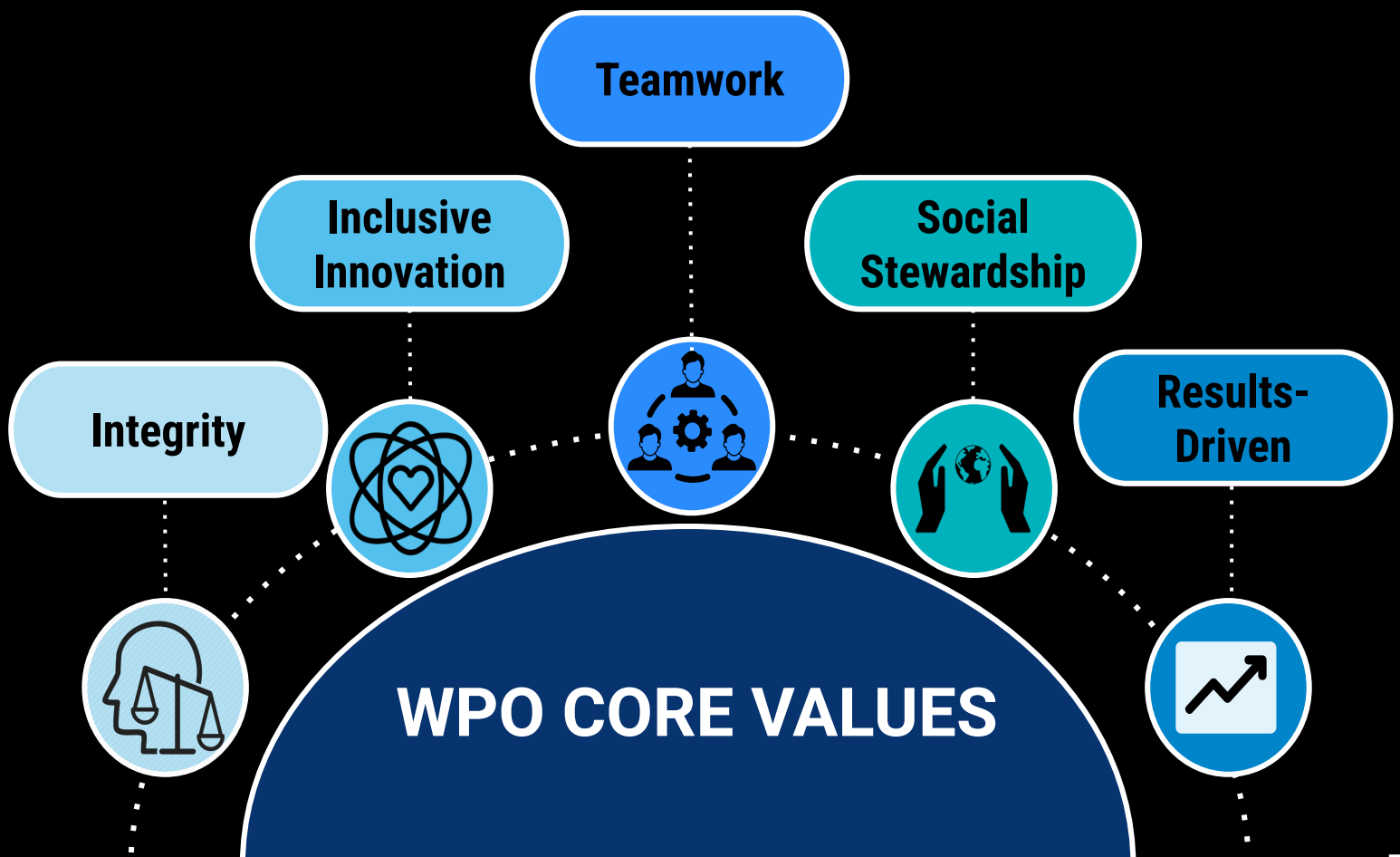
Goal 4

Strengthen the foundational infrastructure for next-generation weather research and transitions.



WPO Vision

Innovative Science Powering a Weather-Ready Nation

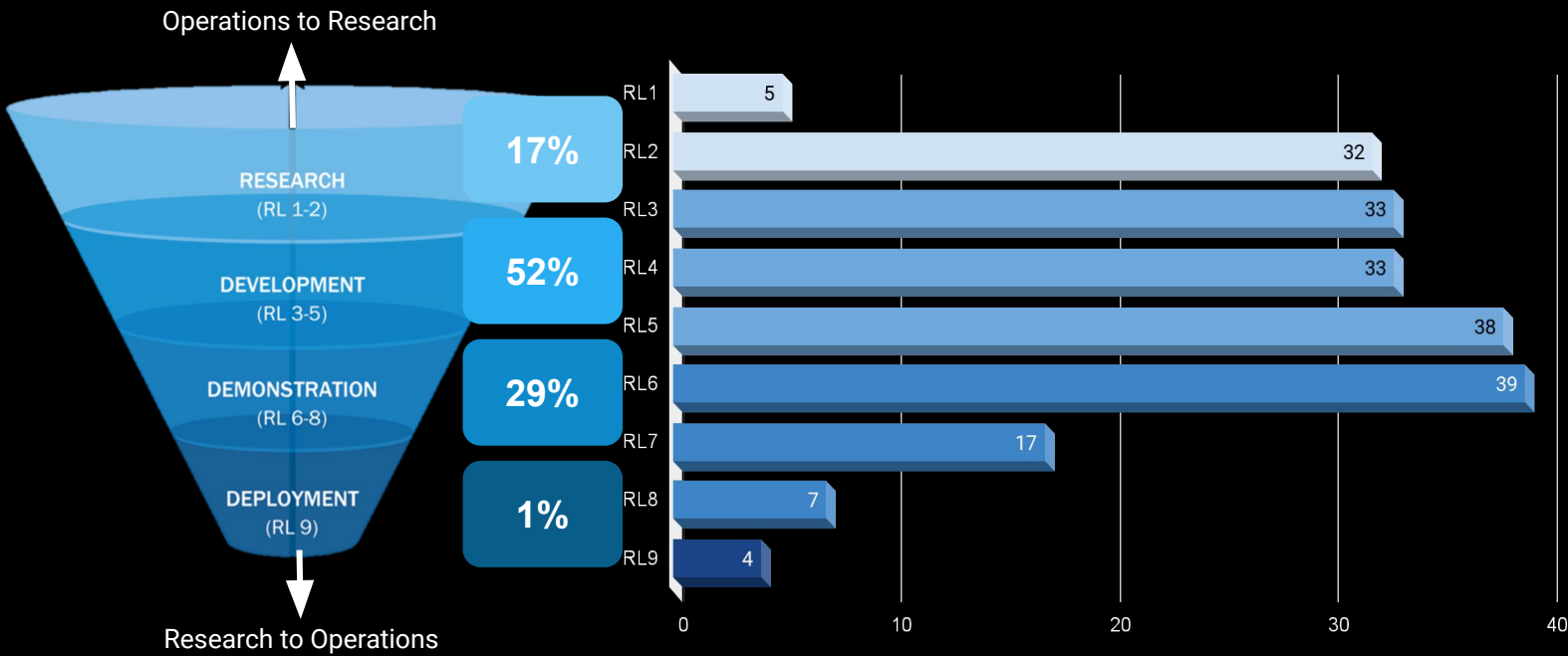


Research Transitions

In alignment with the Weather Research and Forecasting Innovation Act of 2017 (the “Weather Act”), WPO supports R&D projects that lead to improved understanding of severe weather phenomena.

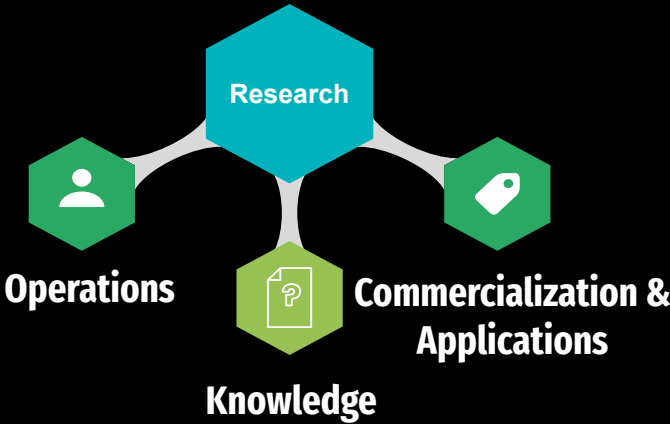
The funnel below depicts the R&D process - winnowing applied research concepts through the stages of research to operations (R2O), commercialization (R2C), and applications (R2A) - collectively referred to as R2X. Progress through the Readiness Levels (RLs) leads to the maturation of innovative ideas, demonstrations of new technologies, and deployable products, as well as operational deliverables ready for transition. Research projects start in the lower RLs as applied research, and progress and refine until ready for operations, knowledge transfer or applications.

2023 Active WPO Project Readiness Level Distribution



Trifecta of Research Outcomes

Transition of R&D outputs to operational use through adoption in NOAA or elsewhere



Transition of R&D output, data, technologies, procedures, etc, to commercial entities or the public

Transition of scientific advancements through publications, reports, and recommendations

WPO By The Numbers

2023 Supplemental Appropriations Management and Oversight

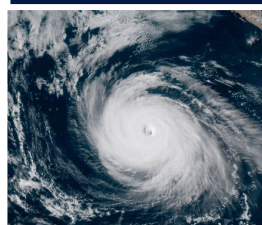
52 Projects

3 Floods
15 Wildfire
11 Hurricane
9 Social Science
4 Data Assimilation
4 Weather Forecasting
6 Extreme Precipitation

**\$170M
Across 4
Portfolios**



**26
Quarterly
Performance
Reviews**

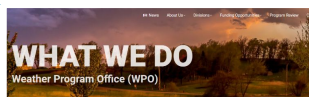


**3
Story
Maps
Created**



2023 Outreach and Communications

**61k users and 140k
pageviews
of WPO's website**



**We Fund Research to Improve Your
Weather Forecast**
We work closely with federal agencies and utilities, state and local governments, academia, and the private sector to develop and transition weather research.

~200

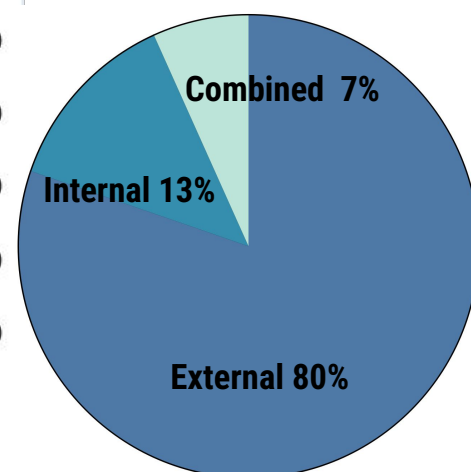
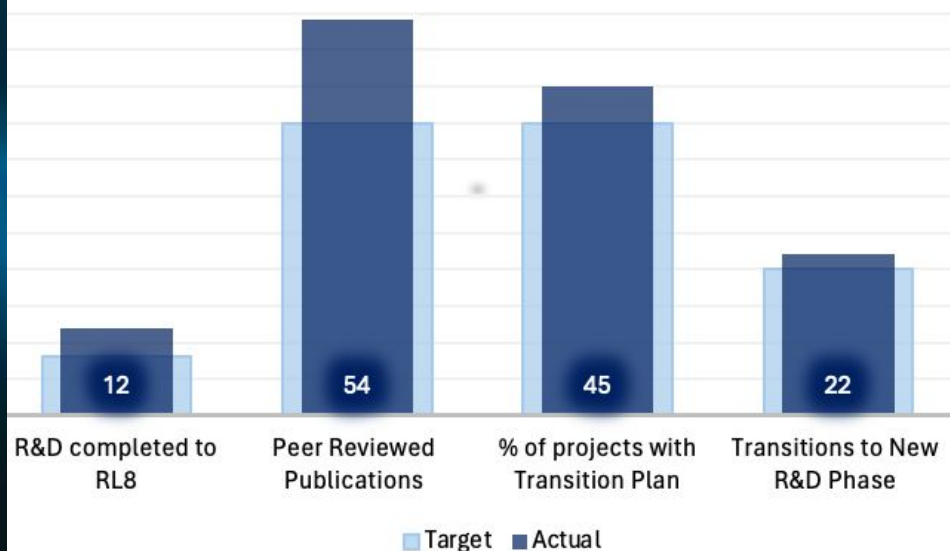
**conferences, meetings
and workshops attended
fostering engagement by
WPO staff**

40

**web stories published to the
website**



2023 WPO Funded Projects



WPO surpassed our 2023 performance targets!

WPO R&D Investments

WPO Divisions

WPO is a growing and changing office that covers a wide breadth of weather-related research areas. With that expansion, the need to realign our programs into four distinct divisions became apparent. Beginning January 1, 2023, WPO began operating in this realigned structure and over the following months refined and settled into the new divisions. This has allowed WPO's programs to align with its newly-defined strategic objectives.



Strategically Aligning



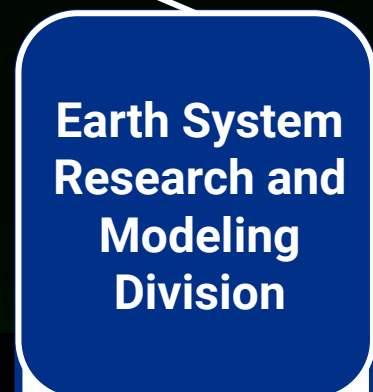
CARMEN DAVILA
Division Chief



GINA EOSCO, PHD
Division Chief



MARK VINCENT, PHD
Division Chief



JESSIE CARMAN, PHD
Division Chief

Management and Administration

Serves as the keystone for the Weather Program Office (WPO), providing day-to-day support and innovative strategies for the office. The Division is responsible for facilitating and coordinating operational tasks across WPO to create efficiencies, ensure compliance, and reduce risk in conducting and funding weather research activities, as well as cultivating, spearheading, and evaluating WPO's performance and impact across OAR and NOAA.



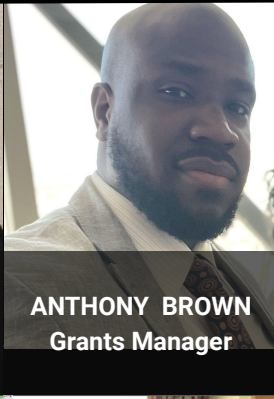
CARMEN DAVILA
Division Chief



MELISSA PRATT-ZOSSOUNGBO
Administrative Officer



TAMARA BATTLE
Policy and Partnerships Manager



ANTHONY BROWN
Grants Manager



***CYNDEE O'QUINN**
Communications

Key areas of responsibility include office administration, financial management, human resources, acquisitions and grants management, policy and congressional affairs, strategic planning, partnerships and engagement, communications, and DEIJA activities.

The division successfully manages the resources to support science and research innovation, facilitates a diverse and inclusive work culture, and aligns and integrates WPO research priorities into legislation.

The division also serves as the lead for **Goal 1** of WPO's Strategic Plan: *Foster a collaborative weather research and development network with academic, governmental, and industry partners.*



KAREN WILLIAMS
Acquisitions Manager



***SHANNON SIMMONS**
Contracts



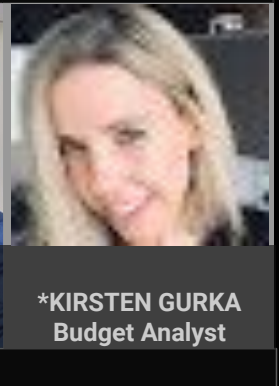
***CLAUDIA WOMBLE**
Contracts



HARISH VASUDEVAN
Budget and Financial Analyst



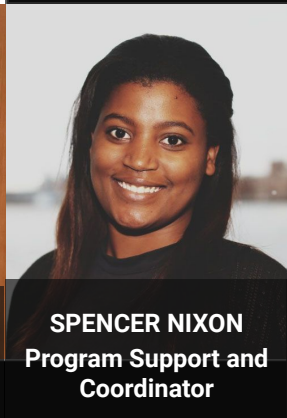
***LEVI MATTHEWS**
Budget Analyst



***KIRSTEN GURKA**
Budget Analyst



KATRINA UTZ
Special Assistant to Director & Deputy



SPENCER NIXON
Program Support and Coordinator



JENNIFER LEAMAN
Office Management and Coordinator



***CATHERINE GARDINER**
Logistic Coordinator

Key Accomplishments

Budget

Successfully managed a \$72M appropriation, executing 97%, resulting in minimal carryover, as well as \$30.5M of supplemental funding from the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) and the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL)



Administration

Developed an employee onboarding system that streamlined and expedited the onboarding process allowing an organized and efficient spin up for new employees.



Human Resources

Increased division staff, filling necessary roles and responsibilities to maximize effective customer service internally to WPO and externally to OAR, NOAA and beyond.



Communications

Redesigned and upgraded the WPO WIND, an intranet site, creating a repository for useful information including process documents, budget information, forms, etc for the benefit of WPO staff.



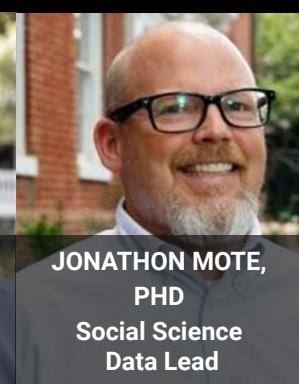
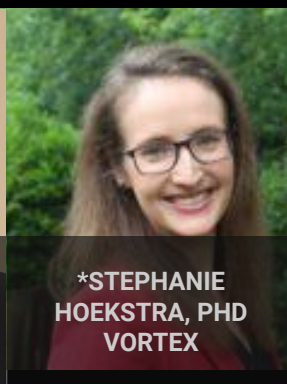
Acquisitions

Oversaw 30 contract actions totaling \$30M in support of the WPO labor force, advancing the EPIC program, increasing data assimilation, and conducting the first ever WPO Culture Survey.



Science, Technology, and Society

Ensures that weather and water research and development (R&D) projects are useful, usable, and used through codevelopment and transitioning research into operations, applications, and knowledge.



Social Science

Funds social, behavioral, and economic research that plays a critical role in connecting the improvements of NOAA's weather forecast information to the public's growing forecast needs, including an emphasis on SBES data and knowledge transfer.

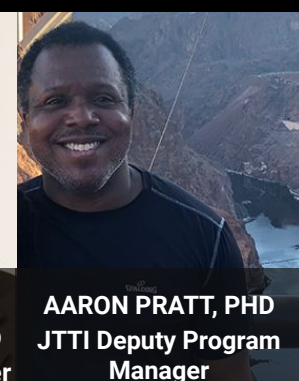
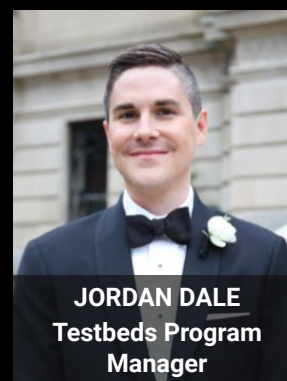
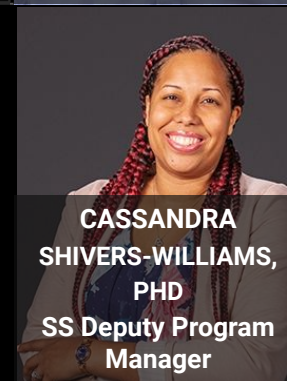
Testbeds

Funds projects that enables researchers and forecasters to work together to integrate new observing systems into models, test and streamline data assimilation methods, test model improvements, and strategize new developments for the benefit of the public.

Joint Technology Transfer Initiative (JTII)

Funds projects that focus on more mature research, advancing the latest science and technology, especially the UFS, into operations.

The Division also serves as the lead for **Goal 2** of WPO's Strategic Plan: *Improve high-impact weather forecasts, products and services, and their delivery, use, and value to the public.*



Key Accomplishments

Empowering Open Science: SPARK

The Science, Technology, and Society Division launched the SPARK, serving as a comprehensive one-stop-shop, providing a centralized platform to researchers and practitioners, for accessing a rich repository of knowledge generated through funded social science research projects. Currently, the SPARK offers increased visibility and accessibility to a variety of research studies, reports, and publications associated with WPO's and NSSL's currently and previously funded social science research.



Strengthening Partnerships: Funding an Open Data Workshop

WPO's Social Science Program reinvested in its relationship with the Natural Hazards Center at the University of Colorado Boulder, co-hosting a workshop on Open Data and Reuse in Social Science Weather Research. Representatives and researchers from data repositories and funding agencies attended the workshop to gather insight and produce community-informed recommendations for publishing and reusing SS data and instruments. See the final report here.



Natural Hazards Center Director Lori Peek explains discussion protocols at the Open Data Workshop held in Boulder, Colorado.
©Natural Hazards Center/Victor Marchezini, 2023.

Scenario-Based Forecasts for Extreme Weather

This project utilizes clustering approaches using a multi-model ensemble within the NBM to generate scenarios that can help forecasters better distill and communicate the ensemble predictions. This capability would be an enhancement over the current NBM, which generates products related to an ensemble average or probability across all models. Because of limited HPC resources with WCOSS and NBMs with clustering, the goal was modified to make the clusters operational on a webpage at WPC, and a new graphical system (DESI), which is now accessible to all forecasters across the country.



Tropical Cyclone Model: Tested and Transitioning

The FY19 Hurricane and Ocean Testbed (HOT) project, "Further improvements and extensions to the tropical cyclone logistical guidance for genesis (TCLOGG)", utilized HOT to run TCLOGG on National Hurricane Center (NHC) workstations for use by forecasters in real-time. NHC is scoping the process to transition this model to operations, which NHC aims to complete before the 2024 hurricane season



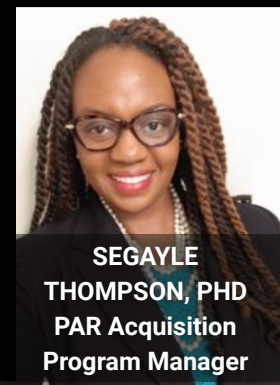
Observations & Research Support

Advances observations-related research; provides research support functions for tracking, analyzing, and evaluating WPO's R&D investment portfolio; and provides PM, coordination, reporting, and communication capabilities for large, cross-NOAA programs.



Phased Array Radar (PAR)

Manages the scope, risks and issues, budget, and performance of the procurement of a Phased Array Radar to inform National Weather Service (NWS) next generation radar for the nation.



Observations

Manages extramural grants, cooperative agreements, and interagency agreements to advance weather observations research into operations and applications.

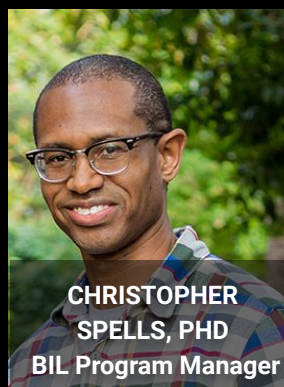
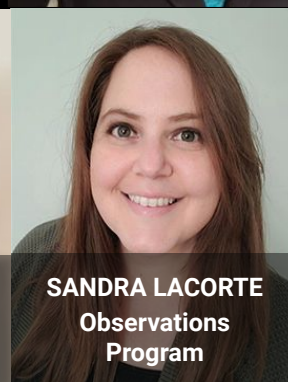
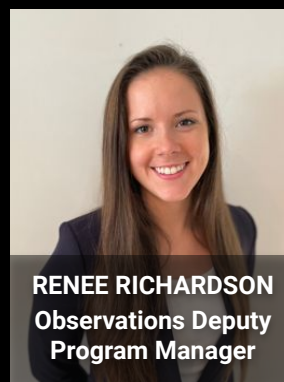
Supplemental Appropriations

Provides coordination, oversight, reporting, and communication capabilities for weather-related projects associated with several major supplemental appropriations programs.

Research Transitions and Portfolio Analysis

Leads WPO in the development of transition policies, templates, and strategies for the office for a variety of transition types, manages and analyzes WPO's project directory for trends and gaps.

The Division also serves as the lead for **Goal 4** of WPO's Strategic Plan: *Strengthen the foundational infrastructure for next-generation weather research and transitions.*



Key Accomplishments

Flying into the History Books



The Guinness Book of World Records recognized two incredible hurricane observing feats that WPO's Obs Program along with AOML and other partners collaborated on over several years.

On September 30, 2021, [Saildrone](#) 1045, a wind and solar powered uncrewed surface vehicle, was navigated into the eyewall of Category 4 Hurricane Sam, and measured an astonishing wind speed of 126.4 mph.

On September 28, 2023, an Area-I Altius-600, a 27-lb. uncrewed aircraft with an 8-foot wingspan, was deployed from the [NOAA WP-3D Orion](#) Hurricane Hunter aircraft, "Kermit," into the eyewall of Category 4 Hurricane Ian. The Altius-600 completed the record breaking mission of 102 minutes, collecting critical atmospheric data during its mission.

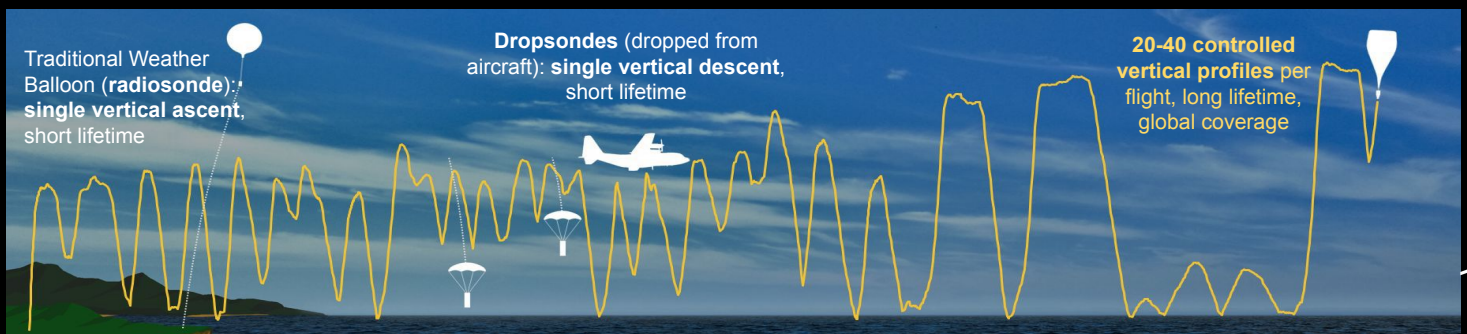
Next Generation Radar

Looking to replace its older weather radar infrastructure, NOAA is investigating the benefits and impacts of Phased Array Radar (PAR) technology as an option within the next radar network. Working closely with NSSL and AGO (Acquisition and Grants Office), WPO is managing the acquisition of a PAR test article that will inform the NWS Radar Next Program. WPO's involvement has led to a successful NEPA Environmental Assessment and land lease procurement for the PAR Test Article; organization, development and completion of a PAR Transition Plan; and publication of a request for proposals for a PAR Test Article.



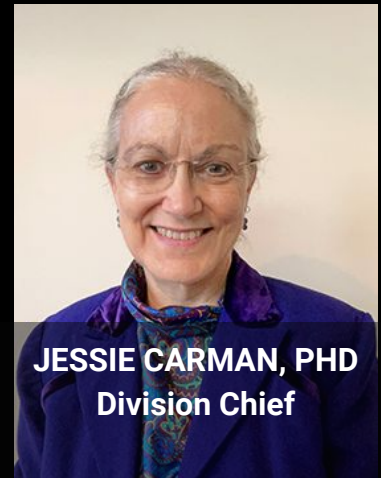
Sky's the Limit

Funded by the Obs Program in FY21, [WindBorne Systems](#) global sounding balloons continue to reach new heights across the weather enterprise. In 2022, WindBorne Systems deployed two balloons during Hurricane Ian to test their operational value and collect critical forecast improvement data. In 2023, the program provided additional funds to NOAA's Environmental Modeling Center to support evaluation of data impacts on the operational GFS for hurricane and atmospheric river forecasts. With average flight times of seven days, the balloons are capable of real-time altitude adjustments for vertical atmospheric profiling, flying significantly longer than traditional radiosondes. This highly accurate, low-cost data collection technique of the boundary layer has proven critical to the advancement weather research and forecasting.



Earth System Research and Modeling

Funds research to accelerate Earth system model development within the Unified Forecast System (UFS) community modeling framework as a seamless weather-to-climate forecast system.



JESSIE CARMAN, PHD
Division Chief



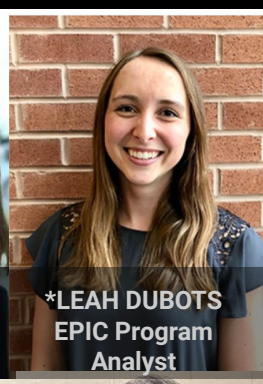
MAOYI HUANG, PHD
EPIC Program
Manager



JOSE-HENRIQUE
ALVES, PHD
EPIC Program



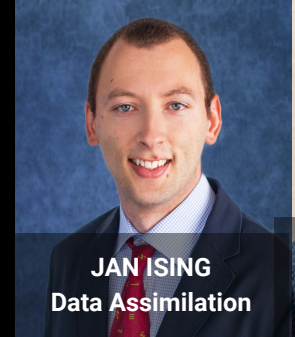
JENNIFER VOGT
EPIC Program
Analyst



*LEAH DUBOTS
EPIC Program
Analyst

Earth Prediction Innovation Center (EPIC)

Catalyzes Weather Enterprise community access to the developmental UFS code in order to foster innovation, and facilitates the inclusion of those innovations into NOAA's operational codes.



JAN ISING
Data Assimilation



KRISHNA KUMAR,
PHD
EPIC Program

Subseasonal to Seasonal Program (S2S)

Funds research that focuses on global model improvements for extended range forecasts, especially for precipitation prediction, and extended range forecasts of extreme heat or cold.



MARK OLSEN, PHD
S2S Program
Manager



CHRISTINE
BASSETT
S2S Program

Synoptic Program

Supports research on the scale of days to a week, including fire weather, air quality, and atmospheric rivers.

The Division also serves as the lead for **Goal 3** of WPO's Strategic Plan: *Contribute to the UFS through a community-based, Earth system modeling approach.*



LINGYAN XIN
Synoptic Program
Manager



DK KANG, PHD
Fire Weather
Program

Key Accomplishments

Fostering Community

EPIC hosted the 2nd Annual Unifying Innovations and Forecasting Capabilities Workshop (UIFCW) in July 2023, with 546 participants (213 as in-person attendees) and boasting a 30% increase in attendance from 2022! Over 9,095 streaming sessions were initiated during the week with an average streaming time of 25 minutes, and social media traffic surpassed 31,238 views on the  platform.



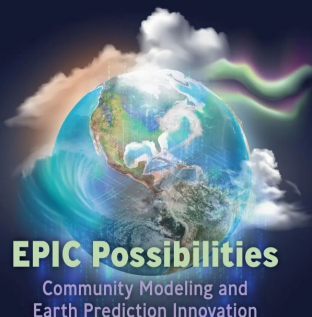
Meeting Future Needs

The North American Multi-Model Ensemble (NMME) workshop was hosted at NOAA's Center for Weather and Climate Prediction. Activities supported by WPO included a historical perspective on NMME, and highlighted existing use/needs cases with a focus on: 1) how NMME fits into the research community, and 2) setting the future for NMME to explore unmet needs. The resulting workshop report examines potential modifications to production and data protocols, with their impacts on NMME infrastructure and cost.



EPIC Possibilities

The Bulletin of the American Meteorological Society featured an article on EPIC, highlighting its role in facilitating community partnerships within the modeling community. EPIC is leading this collective to enable the most accurate and reliable operational numerical forecast model. The authors include Dr. Spinrad, Louis Uccellini and Craig McLean, as well as Bill Lapenta (posthumously), and former WPO Director, Dorothy Koch.



Improving Coordination

ICAMS is the formal mechanism by which all relevant Federal departments and agencies coordinate implementation of policy and practices to ensure U.S. global leadership in the meteorological services enterprise. The S2S Program provided coordination and support to produce the *ICAMS S2S Focus Initiative Report*, outlining a vision for the next generation integrated physical earth system prediction capability, to support days-to-decadal global prediction.





First Scientific Program Review

NOAA Research laboratories and program offices undergo in-depth science reviews every five years, with the goal of assessing the effectiveness of each lab or program's mission and activities. In January 2023, WPO executed our inaugural program review, by a panel of subject matter experts selected from across the weather enterprise. The panel was charged with evaluating the quality, relevance and performance of the research and activities WPO supports, as well as management of it's portfolio. The review was a resounding success for the office and staff, earning an overall rating of "Exceeds Expectations."

WPO presented its portfolio across four thematic areas including:



Quality - the merit of R&D that is funded and the resulting communication, outputs, and knowledge shared with the scientific community.

Relevance - the value of R&D to users beyond the scientific community, including not only hypothetical value, but actual impact.

Performance - understanding the quality of management, including interaction with stakeholders, clear articulation of strategic direction, as well as the balance of the portfolio across time frames and intended applications.

Throughout the assessment, reviewers emphasized the exceptional quality of work showcased by WPO. Reflecting on the breadth of WPO's work, the review panel commented that, *"The office's work not only saves lives but also substantially enhances the economy as a result of the products produced, technical advancements, and improved communications. By integrating social and physical sciences within a unified framework, WPO produces actionable solutions for society."*

Review Panel - A Diversity of Expertise



Dr. Robert O'Conner



Dr. Alexis Merdjanoff



Dr. Steven Fine



Dr. Kimberly Wood



Dr. Michée Lachaud



Dr. L. Ruby Leung



Dr. Gregory Jenkins



Dr. Steven Pawson

“WPO is a necessary and needed organization, particularly as convergent research comes to the forefront and societal impacts from weather and climate continue to rise.”



DEIA Strategic Plan - Standing Together



WPO debuted its FY24 - FY26 WPO Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Justice and Accessibility (DEIJA) Strategic Implementation Plan in October of 2023. This plan demonstrates WPO's commitment to DEIJA, for our workforce in WPO and OAR, and ultimately to the benefit of the entire weather enterprise.

Vision: Improve and advance a diverse and inclusive culture for NOAA's Weather Program Office.

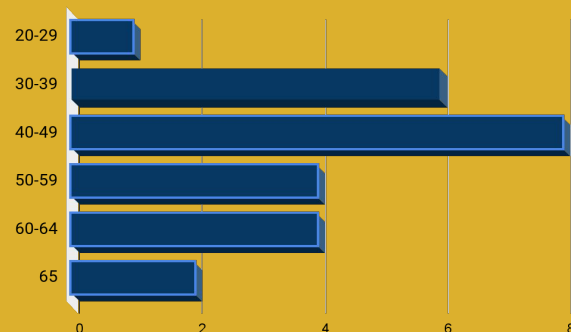
Mission: Create, nurture and support an inclusive office culture for employees, that elevates performance, enhances collaboration, expands engagement, and effects change.

- To foster an environment that encourages and promotes diversity of thought, opinions, ideas, perspectives and experiences, for the betterment of WPO.
- To develop a meaningful and intentional strategy that authentically embraces equity, inclusion, and allyship in all forms.
- To align our core values with initiatives and actions that promote justice and accessibility for WPO, OAR, and NOAA.

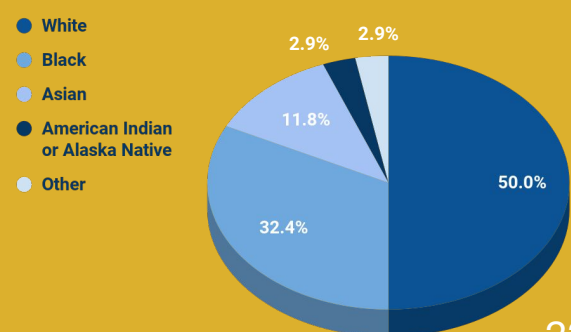
35

Unique fields of study
represented
in WPO

Federal Employee Age Distribution



Federal Employee Ethnicity



Internships and Fellowships

WPO hosts students through internships and fellowships, allowing them to gain valuable experience about NOAA, OAR, and our role within the agency.

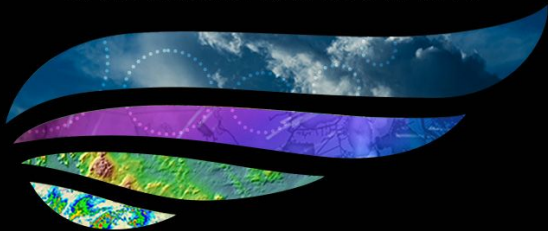
Through a variety of projects spanning a diverse range of weather-related topics, hosting interns:

- Provides assistance with accelerating projects;
- Promotes and supports NOAA's DEIA efforts;
- Prepares students to enter NOAA and the broader Weather Enterprise.

In 2023, WPO hosted 5 interns over the summer: 4 William M. LaPenta interns, and 1 EPP/MSI Federal STEM education scholar. Read more about their summer projects [here!](#)



WEATHER PROGRAM OFFICE'S INNOVATION for NEXT GENERATION SCIENTISTS



W.I.N.G.S.

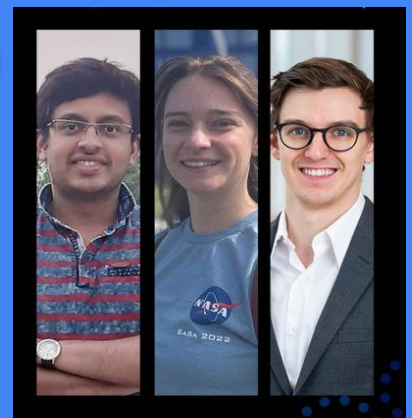
Ph.D. Dissertation Fellowship



UCAR
COMMUNITY
PROGRAMS



UCAR | CPAESS and NOAA's Weather Program Office welcomed the inaugural class of the WPO Innovation for Next Generation Scientists (WINGS) Dissertation Fellowship of 2023-2024.

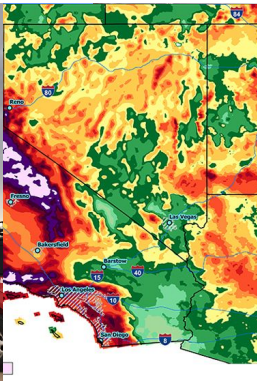
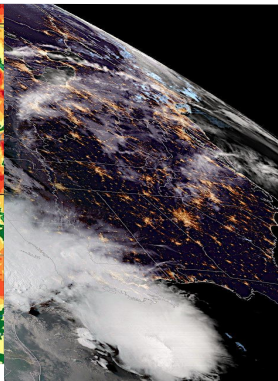


Shreyas Rajendra Dhavale, Emily Faber and Joseph Knisely will gain real-world, doctoral experience applying expertise in their field of study to weather model development with EPIC as Ph.D. candidates.

FY23 NOFO - An Omnibus Approach

Four grant competitions

37 funded projects, totaling ~ \$13.5 million

Observations: Develop, demonstrate, and/or analyze innovative sensor and observing technologies beneficial to NOAA and the Weather Enterprise	SBES: Integrates SBES into meteorological research, forecasting, information displays, communication of uncertainty, and understanding of individual and community vulnerabilities to weather	VORTEX-USA: Integrates physical and social science research to improve forecast and warning capacity, and improve societal responses to threats and impacts	Innovations for Community Modeling: Collaborative funding opportunity between the EPIC, JTTI, S2S, and Fire Weather programs to drive innovative research
			
			
11 Projects \$2.5M per year	10 Projects \$4M per year	4 Projects \$2.5M per year	12 Projects \$7.7M per year

FY24 Annual Virtual NOFO Webinar

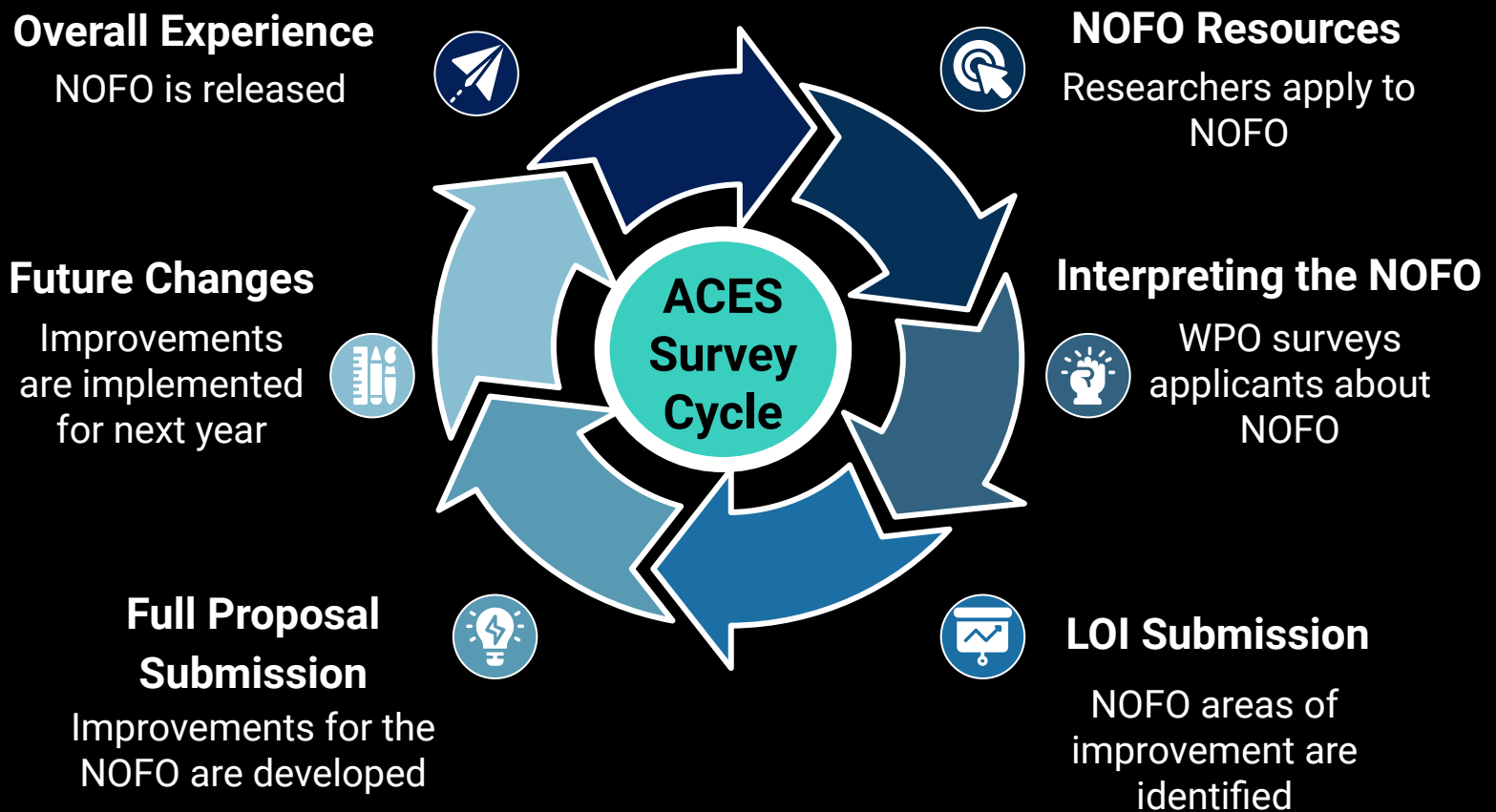
For the second year, an informational and instructional closed-captioned webinar to introduce our FY24 NOFO Competition was presented by WPO staff, in collaboration with the NOAA Central Library. The webinar, which is available on the Central Library's YouTube channel, provided details on the solicitation including application tips and mistakes to avoid, and reached over 150 internal and external partners and stakeholders.



We Hear You! - Applicant Customer Experience & Satisfaction (ACES) Survey

Launched after the NOFO process was completed in November 2022 and 2023, WPO collected data to make informed decisions on how to refine and improve the application process for future competitions.

Contents of the ACES Survey

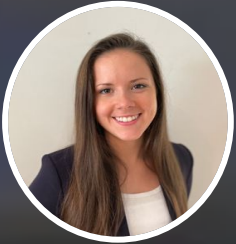


Overall Recommendations from the ACES Survey

- Diversify NOFO outreach and recruitment strategies
- Adjust key dates to provide applicants two more weeks for integrating LOI feedback
- Establish an LOI feedback system that offers both effective feedback and flexibility across programs
- Develop and provide templates for sections/forms
- Ensure applicants are informed about and can readily access critical NOFO resources
- Explore optimal ways to leverage information sheets

Staff Accomplishments

"Be not afraid of greatness. Some are born great, some achieve greatness, and others have greatness thrust upon them." - William Shakespeare



Renee Richardson was featured on NOAA's Ocean Today, Cool Careers, as the inaugural interviewee for "1 Minute Watch". Launching in September 2022, the video has achieved over 35,700 views on social media, been shared with nearly 60,000 educators, and is viewable on a kiosk network at nearly three dozen museums and aquariums across the world.



Jordan Dale received NOAA Research EEO Diversity Award in 2022 for "Exemplary Service: For diligent efforts to expand DEIA activities and awareness by establishing five working groups, developing a "What's New" slide deck for ODIAC members, and leading the initiative to prevent SASH during field work."

OAR Employees and Team Members of the Year

Maoyi Huang for leadership of a highly-visible, Congressionally-mandated multi-million dollar program that engages the external community to partner with NOAA and improve the Nation's weather forecast system.



Segayle Thompson for exceptional leadership and project management that resulted in a significant acceleration in schedule and improvement in communication for the Phased Array Radar (PAR) acquisition program.

Christine Bassett for outstanding program support in all areas of grants management, community outreach, development, and organization for the WPO Subseasonal-to-Seasonal Program, leading to program excellence



Alison Agather, Jonathon Mote, Castle Williamsberg, and Stephanie Hoekstra for developing the SPARK, a first-of-its-kind open science platform to facilitate the transition of social science research to knowledge, applications, and operations within NOAA.



Acknowledgements



Time in Service Recognition



Carmen Davila
30 Years of Federal Service



Claudia Womble
25 Years of Federal Service



Chandra Kondragunta
25 Years of Federal Service



Mark Vincent
20 Years of Federal Service



Lingyan Xin
15 Years of Federal Service



John Ten Hoeve
10 Years of Federal Service



Jessie Carman
10 Years of Federal Service

"You are on the frontlines of making our democracy work for the American people. You keep them, our environment, and our communities healthy and safe. Your talents could have taken you many places, but you chose to serve our country, I am grateful that you are using your abilities to improve the lives of everyone across America."

- President Joe Biden

Looking Forward

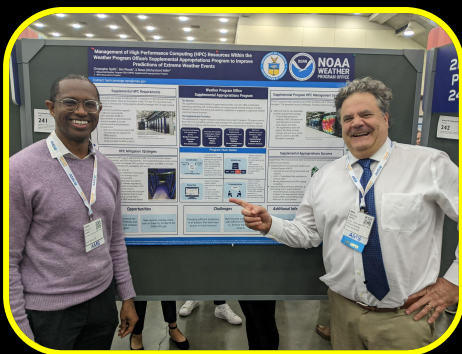


Coming off a productive 2023, WPO is well positioned for FY24 and beyond. Our program review recommendations, exploration of new partnerships and external engagement ideas, as well as the discovery of new and innovative endeavors in line with our 2022-2026 Strategic Plan, will guide us boldly into the future. Looking forward, WPO will continue to focus on developing collaborative weather research programs by building stronger relationships with OAR program offices and laboratories, the National Weather Service (NWS), and the broader weather research community. For instance, we are in the process of working with NWS and OAR's laboratories to identify key themes for our upcoming 2025 NOFO, and the Earth Prediction Innovation Center (EPIC) continues to accelerate improvements to NOAA's numerical forecast models through open science.

As we aim to leverage new innovations, such as artificial intelligence, to improve forecast products and services while reducing computational costs, we will also focus on advancing social science data analysis to improve understanding, preparedness and response to extreme weather events. Lastly, we are committed to developing the next generation workforce, exemplified through initiatives like the WINGS graduate fellowship program, a new data assimilation university consortium, and our continued commitment to investing in student internships and mentoring.

WPO experienced several transitions in 2023 - from the departure of our Director, Dorothy Koch, and the addition of Ray Tanabe as acting Director, to a restructuring of WPO from a flat organization into four distinct divisions, each with a newly appointed division chief. Additionally, 2023 saw an increase in the total number of staff at WPO and an expansion of our portfolio due to the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL). While these changes have presented challenges, they have also presented opportunities to explore new ideas and approaches. Through these transitions, our dedication to cultivating collaborative weather research remains unwavering. Together with our partners, we will continue to advance weather research for the benefit of all Americans.

 John In Howe WPO Deputy Director



Weather Program Office

Office of Oceanic & Atmospheric Research

April 2024

Gina M. Raimondo
United States Secretary of Commerce

Dr. Richard W. Spinrad
Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and
Atmosphere and NOAA Administrator

Dr. Steve Thur
Assistant Administrator for Oceanic &
Atmospheric Research

Ray Tanabe
Acting Director of the Weather Program Office

<http://wpo.noaa.gov>

