

# Amanda Brandt



## Educational Background

- Saint Cloud State University; St. Cloud, MN
  - Bachelors of Science in Meteorology
  - September 2000 – May 2004
  - Graduated with Honors
- Brookings High School; Brookings, SD
  - September 1996 – May 2000
  - Regents' Scholar of South Dakota

## Professional Experience

- Meteorologist for the National Weather Service (NWS) since May 2002
  - I was selected as one of six students from 11 states for the NWS Student Cooperative Education Program (SCEP)
    - As a SCEP student I worked at the NWS office in the Twin Cities (Chanhassen, MN) for two years. During this time, I worked the operational shift rotation full-time during the summers, as well as part time during the school years while a full-time student.
  - Once I completed my degree in Meteorology in May 2004, I went to work at the NWS Weather Forecast Office in Duluth, Minnesota.
  - One of the reasons I love my career is the spectrum of responsibility and duties that I get to accomplish in my position.
    - My operational-shift responsibilities include analyzing and interpreting meteorological and hydrological data in order to create and disseminate a variety of forecasts. These products include forecasts specific for boaters on Lake Superior; aviation (TAFs) for pilots and balloonists; fire weather forecasts for forestry departments, fire fighters, and DNR purposes; as well as grid-point and zone weather forecasts mainly for media and public interests.
    - My main priority however, is to protect life and property. This is accomplished by contributing to the constant monitoring of the threat of severe and dangerous weather. My primary responsibility, beyond the everyday forecasts, is to make critical decisions in issuing various watches, warnings, advisories, and statements for summer and winter weather events. This is by far the most rewarding aspect of my job.
    - Besides the daily duties of monitoring and analyzing the weather, issuing forecasts, and keeping the public notified of hazardous conditions, I am grateful to have many outreach and training opportunities. I have been the primary mentor to six students, varying from seniors in high school to seniors in college. I worked one-on-one with each student from 20 to 50 hours; over the course of a few months. As a mentor, I assigned various projects, gave multiple weather lessons, and worked with the students to become familiar with the office and the NWS organization. At the completion of the student's time, I provided feedback to the students, the office managers, as well as their schools on selected occasions. For two of the students, I wrote recommendations for their NWS Student Coop Education Program (SCEP) applications.
    - I have talked to over 2 dozen groups of students about weather safety, being a meteorologist, as well as aspects of being a woman in a male-dominated field. I was also invited to speak at the Girls-Conference on Non-Traditional Careers to over 150

- I have participated in many community activities including working the NWS booth at the Minnesota state fair for several years, as well as at the Government on Display Expo, The Duluth Boat, Sport, and Travel Show, and organizing a NWS float for a local parade. I have also volunteered to work at a NWS booth at a half dozen Safety Fairs across the Twin Cities Metro. I also take every opportunity to give office tours, do media interviews, present research at conferences, attend various workshops, and take advantage of ongoing training on the latest technology and science.
  - o Research Projects
    - Ice Jam Analysis and Forecasting Procedure Development
      - Presented to St. Cloud State University Earth Science Students & Faculty
      - Presented to Hydrological Forecasters at the North Central River Forecast Center
      - Presented at St. Cloud State University Student Reach Colloquium
        - Awarded the Undergraduate Research Award
      - Presented Winchell Undergraduate Symposium; St John's University
        - Awarded for the "Best Presentation"
    - 2005 New Year's Day Convective Thundersleet Event in Central Minnesota
      - Presented at Northern Plains Convective Conference, St Paul, MN
      - Research Presented at an AMS Meeting at a local NWS office
      - Presented at the Northern Plains Convective Conference, St Paul, MN
    - A Mesoscale Analysis of a Wind Event on 2002 July 28 in Eastern SD
      - Research Presented at an AMS Meeting at a local NWS office
      - Presented at Northern Plains Convective Conference, St Paul, MN
    - Case Study of 2005 August 3<sup>rd</sup> Tornadoic Storm in the Duluth, MN Metro
      - Defying the Myth of Lake Superior Inhibiting Tornadoes

## Skills and Proficiency

- o Communications
  - o Experience in writing weather discussions and forecasts, as well as end of the month climate summaries and newsletter articles
  - o Member of the local Outreach Committee, Training and Research Committee, and Public and Services Committee; including the Public Relations Team, and Data Team
  - o Given many presentations and talks to large groups
  - o Co-responsible for the design and ongoing updates to the Duluth NWS Web Site
  - o Numerous interviews with various media sources, including National Geographic
  - o I conduct various one-on-one and group training to others at my forecasting office as well as prepare training materials
- o Leadership
  - o I am actively the Snowfall Program leader, as well as the leader of the local Diversity Team.
  - o I was the President of the Saint Cloud State Honors Club, a member of the Nat'l Weather Association, AMS, and a competitive member on the SCSU Rowing Team.
  - o Also was the Captain of my drumline, swim team, and girls hockey team, as well as the president of my girl scout troop and on the South Dakota Girl Scout Council.
  - o Sergeant in the Civil Air Patrol; a Search & Rescue Team of the US Air Force Auxiliary
- o Computer Experience
  - o Programming: HTML, Dreamweaver, FrontPage, ArcView GIS, Lynix, C++, MINITAB
  - o Windows: efficient with all Microsoft Office and Word Perfect programs, created many PowerPoint presentations
- o Other Focal Point Interests and Duties
  - o Web Design, Snowfall Program, Archive and Data Program, COOP Observer Program, Training, Student Mentor Program.