

Changnon Interest Statement

Much of my career has focused on ways to bridge the “climate information gap” between climate scientists and climate-sensitive decision makers in agriculture, water resources, energy, transportation and insurance. I believe that my participation in this workshop will allow me to 1) bring to the table many of the “lessons learned” based on my interactions with a diverse group of users, and 2) enhance my skills—develop a greater understanding of how to succeed in communicating “value-added” climate information to sophisticated users.

I believe it is extremely important for those of us involved in basic and applied science to learn how to communicate our knowledge to a wide range of users. This is not just a current research passion of mine, but one that I will carry forward for many years, especially in my efforts to prepare undergraduate meteorology students for diverse and meaningful careers beyond traditional forecasting activities. The objectives of this workshop closely parallel those of my career and thus I feel my participation will benefit me in a number of ways.

Currently, I teach an undergraduate course (MET 431—Applications in Climatology) in Northern Illinois University’s (NIU) undergraduate meteorology program that gets students involved in applied research projects with climate-sensitive decision makers. A number of papers (see attached vita) have come from this activity. I am sure that my experiences with this course could be useful to others who participate in the workshop. Furthermore, many things that I would learn in the workshop could be used to enhance the course and my efforts to move climate information and products from scientists to users.

I really look forward to participating in this activity and hope that my presence enhances the workshop environment. If you have further questions please feel free to contact me. I look forward to hearing from you!