

## STATEMENT OF INTEREST

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I like to tell folks that I was professionally “born and raised in the private sector”. I guess this says more about a desire for efficiency and cutting through communication barriers than any desire for profit. I was born and raised in Wisconsin and attended the UW at Madison. After I earned my degree I agreed to travel abroad with fellow budding scientists whom I met a year earlier as an REU student in North Dakota. If there was one thing I brought back from that experience it is that your assumptions about your beliefs and value system need to have room to include the ideas and perspectives of others. That’s the way collaboration and sharing of ideas has to work regardless of whether you are in the public, private, academic or operational sectors.

I got my big break in the summer of 1995 when Mike Smith offered me a job as a Storm Warning Meteorologist with WeatherData Inc. in Wichita, Kansas. In the following 3 years, turnover was high at the company but I viewed this as an opportunity to learn and increase my responsibility. My job was to issue site specific warnings based off of Doppler radar signatures for railroad track and automobile plants spread across the United States. I also consulted daily with various users of our data to help them make the best decision possible for their operations. I still tell people that this was one of the most interesting and challenging jobs I’ve ever had and a wonderful “boot camp” for a practitioner in the world of operational weather.

I’ve spent nearly 10 years in the National Weather Service and now I find myself as a Lead Forecaster at Indianapolis in pursuit of a Warning Coordination position. My time at Wichita and Indianapolis can be best described as a time when we’ve been hard at work to challenge the barriers that separate meteorologists from users of our information. My background also demands that I try and knock down those barriers that separate the private and public sectors from communicating and working together more effectively toward a common goal. That goal would be to minimize weather related risks through education and preparedness while also improving warning methodologies where technology allows. The world is big enough for both of us! That said, I’ve always been fascinated with human psychology and response to weather hazards. This is exciting work that holds great promise if we can integrate the work of WAS\*IS into the warning operations of the NWS! I see this as a great opportunity for someone like myself who could help spread the message of WAS\*IS to those in the NWS and the private sector.

We’ve also been hard at work to improve education of weather hazards and specific risks organizations face due to the nature of their work. An example of this is the partnership I started with the Indianapolis Motor Speedway in the fall of 2004 where we now employ a tactical meteorologist on site during 3 major auto races each year. I am excited about the opportunity to work with talented and energetic people who come from various areas of the weather and social science spectrum. There’s no doubt in my mind that my background and talents could help expand the reach of WAS\*IS while bringing in new perspectives and ideas from a practitioner’s viewpoint.

