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Weather and Society Integrated Studies (WAS\*IS) is an exciting opportunity, together with our partners, to develop ideas and projects which will have a significant benefit to both society and meteorology. My current career goal is to become a Warning Coordination Meteorologist with the National Weather Service, and I'd like to use this position to give back to the community through weather education and preparedness. As part of this goal I'd like to develop ways to better prepare communities and citizens for high impact events, as well as improve public response to these life-threatening situations.

I believe I have several strengths which I can bring to the workshop, including:

- A very strong work ethic and dedicated team player. Throughout my career I've been extremely fortunate to work with outstanding groups of people. I owe my accomplishments to these people, who by working together put ourselves in a position to exceed.
- Research background gained during the Research Experiences for Undergraduates program at the Oklahoma Weather Center, presenting at regional conferences, and working on local research projects
- Comprehensive outreach experience including public speaking, as well as site visits and one-on-one interaction with customers. I've learned personal interaction is the best way to foster strong relationships with our customers and partners
- Extensive programming skills including web-based applications – I believe the web is the best way for the NWS to convey information to the maximum number of people.
- Close proximity to resources at the University of Utah and NWS Western Region Headquarters, as well as strong contacts with NWS Central Region Headquarters.

If fortunate enough to be selected for the WAS\*IS program, there are several projects and ideas I'd like to explore. I would like to develop a system to better account for large public gatherings in our warning decision making process. I think it's vital we work closely with local event planners and emergency management to create a resource for large public gatherings including concerts, sporting events, festivals, etc..., as well as events which may garner significant media interest. We are beginning the process of meeting with operators of large venues around the Salt Lake City area, and I'm also currently working with a regional team developing a database which will house contact and outreach information. I think this idea could be infused into both of these projects.

In addition to this project, I'd like to take a close look at the social ramifications of the current National Weather Service convective warning program, along with possible modifications to this program. I'd like to investigate the possibility of integrating a rating approach to the warning system. For example, high-impact non-tornadic thunderstorms would warrant an Extreme Severe Thunderstorm Warning, lesser events might receive a Generic Severe Thunderstorm Warning, and marginal events would warrant a Severe Thunderstorm Advisory. This may help people to distinguish events which pose a greater threat from those which pose a much smaller threat.

I believe the skills and experience gained by attending this workshop would help me immensely to incorporate social issues into the projects I develop throughout my career. I am thankful for the opportunity to apply for this exciting workshop, and look forward to hearing from you soon.