

To Whom It May Concern,

I believe I am an excellent candidate for participation in the National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR) Societal Impacts Program's (SIP) Weather and Society * Integrated Studies (WAS*IS) as I was recently named the focal point for the National Weather Service (NWS) in coordinating the integration of social science into the NWS.

My educational background of law, political science and international affairs, along with my professional experience in the legislative, legal and public policy arenas, makes me a good candidate for the WAS*IS Summer Program. While I do not have a meteorology degree, it was my childhood dream to be a meteorologist. I went to Florida State University with the intention of receiving my meteorology degree, however, once there, I realized my strength was not in solving scientific algorithms, but rather in the study of human groups and individuals. I excelled at history, political science and international affairs and from there created a career out of the study of social science. It is incredible to me that after a number of years in the legislative and governmental sectors, I have come full circle and now work at NWS where I am able to combine my social science talents and my passion for the weather.

The WAS*IS Mission is focused on *“building an interdisciplinary community of practitioners, researchers, and stakeholders who are dedicated to the integration of meteorology and social science.”* In my role as focal point for integrating social science into the NWS, I believe I am uniquely placed to advance the objectives of WAS*IS and build on the relationship between NWS and NCAR.

I believe that by participating in the WAS*IS Summer Program I will not only develop further relationships with those in the meteorology and social science sectors, but that I will come away with a better understanding of how the inclusion of human dimensions and societal impacts can better serve the weather and climate enterprise. I am interested in hearing from other participants as to what social science methodologies have been successful in positively affecting weather information services and what has not been effective. Furthermore, it is my hope that my unique insight into the legislative, legal and public policy will broaden the perspective of other Workshop participants.

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