

Science sharing from National Weather Service / University collaboration via the CSTAR program –
perspectives from a “non-co-located” National Weather Service Forecast Office

Michael Evans

NOAA / NWS Binghamton, NY

The collaborative science, technology and applied research (CSTAR) program was established to support scientific collaborations between the National Weather Service and the university community. One of the longest relationships fostered by this program has been the collaboration between the State University of New York at Albany and numerous National Weather Service forecast offices located in the northeast United States. The forecast office at Albany has led the National Weather Service component of this project for many years; however, several other nearby offices have also been involved, and have reaped the benefits of a collaborative relationship with university researchers and students. This presentation will give an overview of experiences with CSTAR from one such non-located office; the National Weather Service forecast office in Binghamton, NY.

The National Weather Service Forecast Office (WFO) in Binghamton, NY has been involved in the Albany CSTAR project since the 1990s. During that time, the office has served as a focal point for numerous collaborative projects involving SUNY Albany faculty and students, with topics ranging from banded snowfall, precipitation distributions associated with closed lows, predecessor rainfall events, and severe convection. WFO Binghamton’s involvement with these projects has included providing guidance on the operational utility of the research, the development of local spin-off projects related to the primary studies, development of training for National Weather Service forecasters based on results from the projects, and work with university personnel on publications.

The presentation will conclude with an overview of one of the more recent collaborative projects between WFO Binghamton, and SUNY Albany; a study on convective scenarios with low predictive skill. Results from the study are shown, along with results from local spin-off studies developed at the WFO’s in Binghamton and Albany. The development of training for National Weather Service forecasters from this project will also be discussed, along with plans for a professional publication.