Project Atmosphere Summer 2022

Being selected by the Canadian Meteorological and Oceanographic Society (CMOS) as the Canadian participant on Project Atmosphere 2022, the American Meteorological Society's (AMS) Summer Teacher Workshop, provided a rich learning opportunity.

The workshop was divided between an on-line distance learning component (throughout July) and a one-week in-residence component. The online modules focused on weather patterns, meteorological charting, remote sensing and atmospheric circulation. These lessons and assignments ensured that all participants had a consistent level of background knowledge for the in-class portion.

The in-residence portion of the workshop was held at the National Weather Service Training Center, Kansas City, Missouri from July 24-29, 2022. The week was filled with guest presentations, both virtual and in person from some of the most accredited people in the field of climate science. Some of the presentations I enjoyed the most included "Artificial Intelligence Applications" by Dr. Amy McCovern, NOAA Education by John McLaughlin, and Climate Change, Probability Theory/weather in Literature by Dr. Barb Boustead. One major highlight for me was listening to Dr. Michael J. Brennan, Acting Deputy Director from the National Hurricane Center talk about the intensity of storms, the challenges of forecasting them, and what we can expect in the future. Additionally, we all looked forward to weather briefings, led by Dr. Chad Kauffman, to practice how meteorologists make a forecast.

A number of tours were incorporated into our week, including seeing remote sensing in action at the National Weather Service building and learning how meteorologists keep us safe in the skies at the Aviation Weather Center.

Whereas the formal daily schedule taught us about content, the informal collaboration of participants was also invaluable. Many participants made individual presentations on a variety of topics. I made a presentation on destreaming Ontario's grade 9 courses where I explained the pedagogy of the "Thinking Classroom". Each evening the learning continued, as we collaborated with our colleagues. On the last day of the course we made group presentations on how we would include Project Atmosphere Resources into our teaching practices. Upon our return home from Kansas City, we completed a few additional assignments to supplement our learning.

The learning, resources and lifelong colleagues that Project Atmosphere exposed me to made this one of the richest PD experiences of my 22 year career. I am very grateful for this opportunity that the Canadian Meteorological and Oceanographic Society provided!

Cara Smith