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**NOAA**



**BRONZE & DISTINGUISHED  
CAREER**



NOAA Auditorium • **May 20, 2014**  
**Silver Spring, MD**

# 2014 NOAA Honor Awards

**NOAA Auditorium**

**Silver Spring, Maryland**

**May 20, 2014**

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## Program

### **Introduction**

Joe Klimavicz

*NOAA Chief Information Officer*

### **National Anthem**

Bob Schwartz

*NOAA Office of Communications*

### **Address**

Vice Admiral Michael S. Devany

*Deputy Under Secretary of Commerce for Operations*

### **Presentation of Awards**

VADM Devany

NOAA Leadership Competencies Development Program Participants  
Line and Staff Office Representatives

### **Closing**

Mr. Klimavicz

# 2014 Bronze Medal Recipients

*The highest honorary award granted by NOAA's Under Secretary, a Bronze Medal is defined as superior performance characterized by outstanding or significant contributions which have increased the efficiency and effectiveness of the operating unit.*

## **National Environmental Satellite, Data and Information Service**

Grace Swanson

*For enhancing global aviation safety and efficiency by improving the volcanic ash mitigation capabilities of NOAA and its collaborating organizations.*

William E. Angel

John A. Jensen

Daniel J. Manns

James Zdrojewski, NWS

Sergio Marsh, NWS

Gary E. Wicklund, NWS

*For meeting customer needs for near real-time weather, climate, and marine observations by transitioning paper reporting to digital collection.*

Anthony Artusa, NWS

Michael J. Brewer

Richard Heim

David Miskus, NWS

Matthew Rosencrans, NWS

Richard Tinker, NWS

*For guiding the nation during the largest and most severe drought episode in decades through authorship of the U.S. Drought Monitor.*

Hyre Bysal

Kevin Ludlum

Sam Ming San Chen

Xiangqian Wu

Alva Barnette

*For permanently recovering GOES satellite observations previously canceled during eclipse seasons due to contamination by stray sunlight.*

Scott L. Cross

Becky Allee, NOS

Arthur R. Parsons

Hernan E. Garcia

Elizabeth Schneck-Gardner

Russell H. Beard

David M. Nelson, NOS

Amanda Frick, NMFS

David Hanisko, NMFS

James Primrose, NMFS

*For superior leadership and interagency collaboration in creating the comprehensive, digital information publication, Gulf of Mexico Data Atlas.*

Ivan Csiszar  
Andrew Heidinger  
Jeffrey Key  
Shobha Kondragunta  
Istvan Laszlo  
Anthony Reale  
Marco Vargas  
Menghua Wang  
Yunyue Yu  
Xiwu Zhan  
Donald Hillger  
Alexander Ignatov  
Lawrence Flynn

*For the timely creation and leadership of  
the team to increase the scientific value of  
the Suomi environmental data products to  
meet NOAA users' needs.*

Huan Meng  
Limin Zhao  
Banghua Yan  
Sheldon Kusselson

*For the development and implementation  
of NOAA's first satellite-based operational  
snowfall rate product.*

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## **National Marine Fisheries Service**

Lisa Colburn  
Min-Yang Lee  
Barbara Rountree  
Scott Steinback  
Susan L. Brown  
Matthew McPherson

Ingo Fleming  
Joanne Pellegrino  
Victor Vecchio  
Michael Jepson  
Tara Scott  
Ayeisha Brinson  
Melissa Yencho  
Rita Curtis

*For completion of a rapid economic assessment of New York and New Jersey fishing communities impacted by Super Storm Sandy to guide recovery efforts.*

Kay Davy  
Michael Mastry, OGC  
Pace Wilber

David Bernhart  
*For advancement of both economic development and living marine resources conservation in the Savannah Harbor Expansion Project.*

John Foster  
Tom Sminkey  
Han-Lin Lai  
David Van Voorhees  
Lauren Dolinger Few  
Laura Johansen  
Forbes Darby  
Gordon Colvin

*For outstanding effort to increase the statistical accuracy of marine recreational fishing catch estimates for the Atlantic coast and Gulf of Mexico.*

Jennifer A. Moore  
Cheryl L. Scannell, OGC  
Margaret W. Miller  
Lance W. Smith  
Elena J. Onaga, OGC  
Russell E. Brainard  
C. Mark Eakin, NESDIS  
Gregory A. Piniak, NOS  
J. Paul McElhany  
Marta F. Nammack

*For an unprecedented, multidisciplinary assessment that supports science-based decisions on listing 82 coral species under the Endangered Species Act.*

Kresimir Williams  
Richard Towler  
*For conception, development, and implementation of a non-lethal camera-trawl sampling device to improve fisheries stock assessment survey methods.*

Alaska Fisheries Science Center  
Alaska Regional Office  
NOAA Office of General Counsel,  
Alaska Section  
NOAA Office of General Counsel,  
Enforcement Section

*For design and implementation of a restructured, industry-funded observer program to promote effective management of North Pacific marine fisheries.*

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## **National Ocean Service**

Frank Csulak  
Cmdr. Elizabeth Kretovic, OMAO  
Nicolle Rutherford  
Gary Shigenaka  
Jordan Stout  
John Tarpley  
Ian Zelo

*For completely overhauling NOAA's oil spill Shoreline Cleanup and Assessment Technique program, resulting in national leadership in spill response training and execution.*

Robert Heitsenrether  
Manoj Samant  
Thomas Landon  
Albert Sanford  
Stephen Gill

*For developing, evaluating, and transitioning the microwave water level sensor to operations in the National Water Level Observation Network.*

Gerald Mader  
Andria Bilich  
Dennis Lokken  
Charles Geoghegan  
Giovanni Sella  
Bruce Tran  
Steve Breidenbach  
Kendall Fancher

*For the design and implementation of a NOAA absolute GPS/GNSS antenna calibration program to improve GPS positioning accuracy for all users.*

Charles Menza  
Chris Caldwell  
Mark Monaco

*For the development of a biogeographic assessment of seabirds, deep sea corals, and ocean habitats of the New York Bight in support of ocean management.*

Lisa Rosman  
Nancy Beckvar  
George Graettinger  
Marguerite Matera, OGC  
Laurie Lee, OGC

Jason Forman, OGC  
Mathias Collins, NMFS  
Anthony Dvarksas  
Carl Alderson, NMFS  
Julie Sims, NMFS

*For achieving a \$22.7 million settlement to restore critical NOAA and tribal resources injured by waste site contamination in the St. Lawrence River environment.*

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## **National Weather Service**

Zack Z. Jing

*For implementing an innovative algorithm for dealiasing Doppler velocity, vastly improving NEXRAD radar data quality.*

Eugene M. Petrescu

*For developing the first scientifically based sea ice probability forecast used for decision-making by BOEM during the 2012 Arctic drilling season.*

Ed Berkowitz

James Williams

Frank Hewins

Jeffrey Turner

Timothy Crum

*For implementing an innovative solution to reposition and recondition the Melbourne, Fla., Next Generation Weather Radar.*

Peter J. Grant

Cheryl A. Stephenson

Donna M. Kitchell

Christopher J. Hunt

Ramon Gonzalez

Jerrold T. Walker

Danny G. Green

Anthony C. Marci

*For leadership and management of logistics support, assuring the nation's dual polarization NEXRAD is maintainable in support of forecast operations.*

Telecommunication Operations Center

*For outstanding work to establish the Washington Global Information System Center.*

Weather Forecast Office, Amarillo,  
Texas

*For precise forecasts and exemplary decision support services during a crippling blizzard over the Texas and Oklahoma panhandles on February 25, 2013.*

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## ***Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research***

GFDL Administrative Services Group

GFDL Technical Services Group

*For selfless application of administrative and technical support throughout Super Storm Sandy to protect mission capability, life, and property at the Geophysical Fluid Dynamics Laboratory.*

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## ***Office of the Chief Information Officer***

David Michaud

Ron Bewtra, OAR

Michael Blumenfeld, AGO

Jeffrey Flick, OAR

Michael Kane, NWS

Darren Smith

Robert Sears, OAR

Leslie Hart

Frank Indiviglio, OAR

Bernie Siebers, OAR

*For excellence in transforming NOAA's R&D High Performance Computing System into an enterprise-wide environment, providing new capabilities that enable scientific advancement.*

Luis Cano, NWS

Michael Blumenfeld, AGO

Michael Young, NWS

David Michaud

Scott Nahman, OAR

Kathryn Gilbert, NWS

Rusty Benson, OAR

Mark Iredell, NWS

Geoffrey Dimego, NWS

Shraddha Upadhyaya, OGC

*For dedication in acquiring supercomputing services to sustain production of the nation's operational numerical weather and climate forecast systems.*

# Distinguished Career Awards

*The Distinguished Career Award is designed to recognize sustained, long-term achievement in advancing the goals and mission of NOAA.*

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## **National Environmental Satellite, Data and Information Service**

Paula Dunbar

*For exceptional scientific vision and sustained dedication improving a global database of tsunami events for improved tsunami forecast, warning, research, and mitigation.*

Mark DeMaria

*For research that has led to increased understanding, observational utilization, and improved hurricane forecast capabilities.*

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## **National Marine Fisheries Service**

Stephen Achord

*For career-long leadership of research to understand factors affecting the migration and survival of wild Chinook salmon and steelhead.*

Russell E. Nelson, Jr.

*For continuous and exemplary leadership in advancing the stewardship of Alaskan fisheries throughout 36 years of service to NOAA Fisheries.*

Kevin McLean Bailey

*For pioneering outstanding research on the factors that affect the recruitment of early life history stages of fish to commercial fisheries.*

Gloria Thompson

*For sustained superior administrative performance and commitment to the mission and goals of NOAA and NOAA Fisheries throughout 40 years of service.*

George H. Darcy

*For expertise and sustained exemplary management of U.S. fisheries by introducing efficiencies, guidelines, tracking, and streamlining procedures.*

Roger J. Zimmerman

*For sustained leadership and scientific direction at the NOAA Fisheries Galveston Laboratory throughout 28 years of service to the NOAA Southeast Fisheries Science Center.*

Roy Mendelsohn

*For conceiving and implementing an integrated and accessible data service and for applying rigorous statistical methods to fisheries research.*

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## **National Ocean Service**

Frank Aikman III

*For sustained leadership, development, and implementation of coastal ocean forecasting capabilities in NOAA throughout more than 20 years of service.*

Randolph Grady

*For sustained focus to ensure the infrastructure and support services at the NOAA Beaufort Laboratory allow the pursuit of the agency's scientific mission.*

Mark W. Miller

*For sustained excellence in contributions to oil and chemical spill science, preparedness, and response throughout 25 years of service to NOAA.*

Ronnie L. Taylor

*For outstanding professional achievement in advancing state and federal geodetic activities throughout more than 40 years of service to NOAA.*

Dolores Toscano

*For her talent, hard work, and exemplary teamwork in federal service for 42 years, including 36 years with the National Ocean Service in Maryland and Florida.*

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## **National Weather Service**

Matthew J. Bunkers

*For initiative, creativity, technical proficiency, and teamwork in the development of scientific operational forecasting tools.*

Robert S. Davis

*For over 30 years of sustained, pioneering, and critical research in improving flash flood detection and forecasting for the entire nation.*

Ron Przybylinski

*For his work that has improved our understanding of severe weather threats to our nation, including damaging straight-line winds and tornadoes.*

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## **Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research**

Sandra J. Aschert

*For 36 years of exceptional service to NOAA in improving administrative and budgetary programs and policies and for her respected and exemplary leadership.*

Darien Davis

*For an enduring commitment to NOAA's mission, a tenacity to succeed, and an optimistic vision of the future that drew experts from across the agency to advance NOAA IT systems.*

Robert Evans

*For 40 years of unwavering dedication in maintaining the global total column Dobson Ozone Spectrophotometer Network.*

Silvia L. Garzoli

*For excellence in scientific research of Atlantic Ocean dynamics and extensive service to the oceanographic community.*

R. Michael Hardesty

*For scientific achievement and leadership in the field of atmospheric remote sensing throughout 37 years of service to NOAA.*

Gary C. Matlock

*For more than three decades of linking science to resource conservation and management.*

Anthony J. Rosati

*For outstanding efforts over many years to develop state-of-the-art climate models and assimilation systems to advance seasonal to centennial climate prediction in NOAA.*

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## **Office of Acquisition and Grants**

Donita S. McCollough

*For demonstration of exceptional acquisition skills and leadership, contributing to the success of NOAA's ability to meet its goals and mission.*

Edward F. Tennant, Jr.

*For exceptional acquisition leadership and execution throughout 29 years of service to NOAA with high impact on the National Weather Service.*

# Employees/Team Members of the Month

December 2013

Deirdre Byrne, NESDIS  
LaDon Swann, Sea Grant

January 2014

Jim Farr, NOS  
Leigh Baer, Western Aquisition Div.

February 2014

Christopher Rooper, NMFS  
Krista Goodale, OMAO

March 2014

Jennifer Calderon-Diaz, OAR  
William Booth, NWS

April 2014

Chong Glade, WFM  
Jessica Blunden, NCDC

May 2014

Joe Clark, OMAO  
Matt McIntosh, NOS

# Gold Medal Recipients

*The highest honorary award given by the Department of Commerce, the Gold Medal is granted by the Secretary for distinguished performance characterized by extraordinary, notable, or prestigious contributions that impact the mission of the department and/or one operating unit, and that reflect favorably on the department.*

## Leadership

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### **National Weather Service**

Michael E. Gerber

Gregory Zwicker

Robert D. Bunge

Mark S. Paese

*The group is recognized for their outstanding leadership in developing a delivery method for weather-related wireless emergency alerts to millions of citizens via cell phones. Their efforts*

*resulted in the delivery of weather-related warnings (e.g., flash flood, hurricane, and tornado) over a nationwide wireless emergency alert service, which exceed the performance specifications identified by Federal regulations. For their efforts, weather wireless emergency alerts are now instantly received on cell phones across the United States.*

## **Personal and Professional Excellence**

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### **National Ocean Service**

Michael L. Aslaksen, Jr.

Lt. Christopher W. Daniels, OMAO

Andrew P. Halbach

Lt. Francisco J. Fuenmayor, OMAO

Capt. Albert M. Girimonte, OMAO

Lt. JG Robert J. Mitchell, OMAO

Lcdr. Scott J. Price, OMAO

Jon D. Sellars

Lt. Rebecca J. Waddington, OMAO

Jason W. Woolard

*The group is honored for their rapid collection, processing, and distribution of high-resolution georeferenced digital imagery in the wake of Super Storm Sandy in 2012. The data provided emergency and coastal managers, as well as private citizens, the critical information needed to develop recovery strategies, facilitate search-and-rescue efforts, identify hazards to navigation and HAZMAT spills, locate errant vessels, and provide documentation necessary for damage assessment through the comparison of before and after imagery.*

Navigation Services Division

NOAA ship *Thomas Jefferson*, OMAO

*The group is honored for efforts in the midst of an emergency mobilization covering the entire East Coast, as they adjusted and deployed to the worst-hit ports of New York and New Jersey. Stepping into the breach caused by Sandy's destruction to in-situ survey assets, surveyors literally worked around the clock, finding shoaling and shipping containers that posed dangers to navigation. Working with sporadic electricity, staff delivered near-real time survey information that sped the resumption of port operations and opened the flow of fuel and relief supplies.*

## ***Scientific / Engineering Achievement***

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### ***National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service***

Dean J. Carter

Drew T. Saunders

Jay Morris

Kern Witcher

Nancy A. Ritchey

Walter J. Glance, Jr.

Rick Vizbulis

James J. Goudouros

Axel Graumann

*The group is recognized for its exceptional performance in the implementation of the*

*Suomi National Polar-orbiting Partnership (Suomi NPP Ground System). The team exceeded all testing and performance requirements for ingest, archive, and dissemination of data and products from the Suomi NPP satellite. The team supported the October 2011 launch, which required unprecedented coordination throughout the program. The team also executed unplanned post-launch system enhancements of the data distribution system to meet NOAA and other critical interagency data needs.*

## **Customer Service**

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### **National Marine Fisheries Service**

Northwest Fisheries Science Center  
Southwest Fisheries Science Center  
Pacific Marine Operations Center,  
OMAO

*The group is honored for strengthening customer service to the commercial fishing industry for West Coast hake and sardines, valued at \$64 million in 2011, by re-engineering acoustic and biological*

*survey designs to provide the highest sustainable harvest quotas and increase profit potential. The first-ever joint hake-sardine survey, coordinated with industry and Canada, saved \$1.2 million, when compared with separate surveys, by using an industry-provided vessel in tandem with a NOAA research vessel during 60 days at sea rather than the 140 days required for separate surveys.*

### **National Weather Service**

Weather Forecast Office, New York, N.Y.  
Weather Forecast Office, Mt. Holly, N.J.  
Eastern Region Headquarters

*The organizations are recognized for providing outstanding decision support services and accurate and timely forecasts to decision makers and the public before, during and after Super Storm Sandy. As a hybrid weather system, Sandy challenged forecasters to accurately predicted storm*

*surge and the extent of damaging winds. The large area affected by Sandy required deployment of 20 forecasters to provide in person decision support services to decision makers. Decision makers used National Weather Service information to order mandatory evacuations, ultimately saving thousands of lives.*

## **Heroism**

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### **Office of Marine and Aviation Operations**

Capt. Wade J. Blake  
*Capt. Blake is recognized for heroism and lifesaving in the aftermath of a boat capsizing accident. On March 24, 2012, Capt. Blake and a responding Coast Guardsman rushed into high surf and very cold (-50 degrees F) Pacific Ocean waters near the Yaquina Channel*

*entrance, Newport, Oregon, to rescue a man whose boat had capsized while attempting to exit the channel. The 53-year old victim was hypothermic, unable to stand, and in immediate danger of drowning. Capt. Blake's actions were in the highest maritime traditions and reflect highly on the department and NOAA.*

# Silver Medal Recipients

*The Silver Medal is the second highest honorary award given by the department and is granted for exceptional performance characterized by noteworthy or superlative contributions that have a direct and lasting impact within the department.*

## Leadership

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### **Oceanic and Atmospheric Research**

John A. Ogren

Patrick J. Sheridan

*The group is honored for its vision in recognizing that NOAA's network of six baseline stations is inadequate to characterize the diverse nature of aerosols around the globe, its creativity and strategic thinking in developing an approach to export NOAA's monitoring methods to*

*external partners, and its leadership in implementing these methods in a cooperative network of 24 stations in 10 countries (as of late 2012). The end result is a standardized data set to assess the ability of global climate models to represent trends and variations of aerosol climate-forcing properties around the globe.*

## Personal and Professional Excellence

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### **National Marine Fisheries Service**

Rachel W. Sweeney

Cecelia C. Linder

Jason L. Manthey, OCAO

Jane D. Cerda, AGO

James E. Price, AGO

William J. Becker, AGO

Lauren Didiuk, OGC

*The group is honored for designing and reconstructing Pelican Island, a key barrier island off the coast of Louisiana important to the nation's economy and*

*protection against severe coastal damage and loss suffered by catastrophic hurricanes. This project represents a naturally sustainable solution to shoreline loss while providing habitat for national fishery resources. Completed three months ahead of schedule and \$1 million under the \$48 million budget, this project is a model for other wetland restoration efforts in the Barataria Bay Barrier Island system along the Louisiana Gulf coast.*

## ***Scientific / Engineering Achievement***

### ***National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service***

Martin England  
Cynthia L. Hampton  
Selina M. Nauman  
Capt. William R. Odell  
Joseph Perez  
Lauri Hillenbrand  
Toby Hutchings  
Michael D. Jensen  
Michael Odell

*The group is honored for their operational support during the launch and post-launch testing of the Suomi NPP satellite and for planning and implementing the full transition of satellite and product operations from NASA to NOAA. Operational use of this test-bed satellite provides continuity between the existing Polar-orbiting Operational Environmental Satellites and future Joint Polar Satellite System satellites. This group was actively engaged with their NASA partners to establish a new concept of operations and train new personnel during a time of significant ground system upgrades.*

Yo Kung John Tsui  
Ronald E. Mahmot  
Timothy J. Schmit  
Antonio R. Irving  
Antonio A. Abadia  
Thomas M. Renkevans

*The group is recognized for their exemplary efforts to return Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellite-13 (GOES-13) to operations after a major on-orbit anomaly affected the spacecraft, the imager and sounder instruments, and the products. The group was able to formulate and successfully execute a plan to deploy the GOES-14 on-orbit spare on an interim basis, rebroadcast test GOES-13 data via GOES-14 once the anomaly was resolved, and inspect GOES-13 test data for image quality and validation of quantitative products before returning GOES-13 to operational service as GOES-East.*

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## **Oceanic and Atmospheric Research**

John P. Dunne  
Stephen M. Griffies  
Robert Hallberg  
Matthew J. Harrison  
Jasmin G. John  
John P. Krasting  
Bonita L. Samuels  
Lori Sentman  
Ronald J. Stouffer  
Andrew T. Wittenberg

*The group is recognized for the development and application of NOAA's first comprehensive earth system models.*

*By incorporating improved descriptions of physical climate, biogeochemical cycles, and marine and terrestrial ecosystem dynamics, the models provide robust projections of Earth systems over the 21st century, with societal impact information (e.g., heat stresses). More than 10 published papers on changes to ocean ecological and biogeochemical systems and potential implications for living marine resources support NOAA's science, service and stewardship mandates.*

## **Customer Service**

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### **National Weather Service**

Weather Forecast Office, Pocatello, Idaho  
*WFO Pocatello is recognized for providing fire support for an historic and abnormally extended fire season. The early melting of the snowpack led to critical fuels curing earlier than normal, resulting in an abnormally long fire season in which 600,000 acres were burned. The WFO issued 170 red flag warnings,*

*which equals the number of warnings issued in the previous four seasons combined and a third more than in the record season of 2007. Ninety-one percent of the warnings were verified with an average lead time of 12 hours and 34 minutes, nearly two hours better than the national goal.*

## **Administrative and Technical Support**

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### **Office of the Chief Administrative Officer**

Eric E. Livingston

Mary Ann D. Whitmeyer

Adena G. Fritz, NWS

Marilyn Yuen Murphy, NESDIS

Winston T. Luke, OAR

Cameron L. Shelton, NWS

Scott Prorise, NWS

*The group is recognized for development, creation, and seamless transition of an award-winning (AIA Honor Award and ENR Award of Merit) state-of-the-art NOAA Center for Weather and Climate*

*Prediction by building support, promoting collaboration, creating partnerships, developing creative solutions to a multitude of project challenges, and working as a “super team” with determination and perseverance to make this world-class facility a reality. This unique research and operations facility greatly enhances NOAA’s weather and climate modeling and forecasting capabilities.*

Many thanks to those individuals who contributed  
so much to the success of today's program.

Special thanks to:

**Line and Staff Office Incentive Awards Program Managers**

*Cheryl Alexander, NMFS*

*Yolanda Cooper, OAR*

*Delores Frazier, NWS*

*Christina Heyse, NESDIS*

*Nancy Jackson, OMAO*

*Lydia Kenlaw, OCAO*

*Kathy Lewis, USAO*

*Octavia Saine, OGC*

*Sloane Strother, NOS*

*Marie Toussaint, AGO*

*Tishema Miller, OCIO*

**Members of the NOAA Incentive Awards Board, and the Line and  
Staff Office Performance Management Advisory Committees**

**NOAA Office of Communications**

*Jerry Slaff*

**NOAA Honor Awards Program Manager**

*Karen Robin*