

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It is a great honor that you, the membership of the National Weather Association, have chosen for me to serve as your President for 2002. Our former presidents have taught me much, not just about meteorology, but leadership. The immediate-past president, Les Lemon has been an inspiration, mentor and friend.

The organization will be well served through the recent election of officers and councilors to the NWA Council. See the complete listing on page 3. The National Weather Association is grateful to all individuals that were on the ballot. Without this volunteer spirit, the NWA simply could not exist. One voter wrote a note on the bottom of the ballot stating, "I wish I could vote for them all." That says a great deal about the caliber of people willing to get involved. Many of the races for officers and councilors came down to a small difference in the number of votes!

For those that don't know me, I have been in television broadcasting in Des Moines, Iowa for 16 years and have served as the chief meteorologist at KCCI-TV for seven years. My interest in meteorology started with a love for aviation. My parents are private pilots, so I grew up in the clouds and turbulence. I received my private certificate in high school and went on to earn instrument, commercial and flight instructor ratings. I am building an experimental plane and adding a commercial helicopter rating.

The "defining moment" that turned me toward television meteorology happened on 11 August 1976. While in junior high school in Glidden, Iowa, I built a weather station in our family home from Edmund Scientific Co. instruments. That afternoon, I noticed rapidly falling barometric pressure (below 29.00") and increasing SE winds. As I walked to a west window in our kitchen, I told my mother I believed a tornado would develop shortly. The view from the window was unbelievable, a vision I still see clearly — a large tornado moving toward us. As we stumbled toward the basement, I insisted my mother call the local radio station to broadcast a tornado alert. It missed our home, but caused F2 damage to several farms nearby. It was the only significant tornado in Iowa that day.

As I look toward the future of the National Weather Association, I see greatness on the horizon. In order to achieve some lofty goals, we need to know exactly where

we as an organization are now, and the best course of action to take in the very near future. The NWA Strategic Planning Committee has been tackling these issues, including the development of an NWA Vision Statement. This group will be working quickly to provide information for the 2002 officers and councilors to act on.

Since you the members are the most important piece of the NWA, we will look at ways to gain and retain members. My goal for 2002 is to surpass the 3,000-member mark and I will be asking the Membership Committee to assist in developing a marketing plan to reach out especially to our college meteorology students and recent graduates. Our current membership has been hovering around 2,800. We need to make the value of membership in the NWA very clear to prospective members. You can help achieve the goal by simply encouraging one other person to join this year, or help start a local NWA chapter in your area. As the founder of the Central Iowa NWA chapter, I can tell you how exciting it can be to bring a varied group together to share common interests.

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⇒ IMPORTANT DATES ⇐

15 – 17 February 2002 -- First Southeast Severe Storms Symposium at Mississippi State University hosted by the East Mississippi NWA/AMS Chapter. See page 5.

1 – 2 March 2002 -- 2nd Annual National Severe Weather Workshop, Norman, OK. Sponsored by the NWS, and the Central Oklahoma Chapter of the AMS/NWA. See page 5.

8 – 10 March 2002 -- 27th Annual Northeastern Storm Conference in Saratoga Springs, NY, hosted by the Lyndon State College AMS/NWA Chapter. See page 5.

21 – 23 March 2002 -- 6th Annual Severe Storms and Doppler Radar Conference in Des Moines, IA, hosted by the Central Iowa NWA Chapter. See page 5.

15 April 2002 -- Arthur C. Pike Scholarship Applications due See page 4.

1 June 2002 -- Abstracts due for NWA Annual Meeting.

15 June 2002 -- Nominations due for the NWA METSAT Award and Grant. See page 4.

19 – 25 October 2002 -- 27th Annual NWA Meeting, Radisson Plaza Hotel, Fort Worth, Texas. See page 5.

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With nearly 40 percent of our membership being comprised of broadcasters, I will work closely with our Broadcast Meteorology Committee to make certain that television news directors are fully aware of the value of the NWA Seal of Approval and the need for continuing education for our broadcast members. We have asked the Radio Television News Directors Association (RTNDA) for an opportunity to have an NWA broadcaster address their annual conference in April. The RTNDA has also been invited to have a guest speaker during the NWA Annual Meeting broadcaster workshops to provide some insight on how the current state of broadcast meteorology is viewed by news managers.

I can't say enough about the work being done by our Training Committee. Please check the NWA Web site to see what your volunteers have been up to! Speaking of training, the Aviation Weather Committee is online with the new "Winter Weather and Flying" course. This is a great resource for all of us, as the information is applicable to both pilots and those who prefer not to defy gravity. The winter offering is a follow up to the widely acclaimed and award winning "Thunderstorms and Flying" Internet course. Please make sure your fellow weather enthusiasts, educators, pilots, instructors, students and local Flight Standards District Offices (FSDO) are aware of these unique and free education opportunities.

Here's to a productive New Year for you and our Association. Please feel free to contact me with your thoughts, ideas, and comments as we move boldly forward.

- John McLaughlin
Johnmc49@ecity.net

MEMBER NEWS

Welcome to new Corporate Members!

Page Update Incorporated

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Erwin K. Kauper, the owner of the California-based Metro Monitoring Service, was awarded \$50,000 as the second winner of The Aquila Prize. The award was presented by the Aquila subsidiary of UtiliCorp United during an award luncheon on 16 January 2002 held at the AMS Annual Meeting in Orlando, FL. Erwin won the forecasting competition for making the most accurate probabilistic temperature forecasts in terms of heating-degree or cooling-degree days for 13 cities across the United States. Kauper's forecast was evaluated by Aquila, one of the largest energy wholesaling and risk management companies in North America. The contest results were independently verified by the AMS through its subcontractor, the University of Arizona.

Erwin Kauper's career in weather started in World War II in which he served as a weather officer for the U.S. Army Air Corps in both the United States and the Pacific region. After retiring from the armed services as a lieutenant colonel, he returned to his home in the Los Angeles area and founded Metro Monitoring Services, a company that operated U.S. weather observation stations for the federal government. In 1984, he acquired Allied Weather Consultants, which provides forecasting and climatology services to the movie and television industry.

Competition participants posted their forecasts on the Web site GuaranteedWeather.com, Aquila's one-stop weather risk management portal. The Aquila Prize competition is open to all private-sector corporations, university groups and university or federally affiliated laboratories. Rules for the contest were developed in collaboration with the AMS and NOAA. Aquila plans to award \$300,000 over the three-year competition. For more complete information see Web site: www.aquila.com

Submit summaries of new forecasting techniques or other good news for the NWA monthly Newsletter – just send them by e-mail at anytime to NewsletterNWA@aol.com

2002 NWA COUNCIL

The ballots have been counted and the new slate of NWA Officers and Councilors took effect in January 2002. Congratulations to those elected and thanks to all nominees for showing extraordinary support of the NWA by volunteering for office.

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NWS Aviation Weather Center

See the NWA Web site at: www.nwas.org for a list of Officers and Councilors since 1975, NWA bylaws and much more.

ANNOUNCING the Arthur C. Pike Scholarship in Meteorology

Thanks to a generous donation from the estate of the late Arthur C. Pike, your elected NWA Council members developed the NWA college scholarship program in 2000.

Offering: One scholarship per year in the amount of \$1000 for the September-December portion (semester or quarter) of the school year. The first scholarship was awarded to a Lyndon State College student in 2001.

Administration: The scholarship and selection will be administered by the NWA Education Committee. The NWA President will release the name of the scholarship winner in May. The funds will be distributed by the Executive Director in September.

Eligibility: Undergraduate and/or Graduate students. Undergraduates must be classified at least as a junior for the semester, which the scholarship is awarded. This allows second semester sophomores to apply for the scholarship. If the student is classified as a senior they must either have one more (Sep. - Dec.) semester to complete after the scholarship is awarded or document that they have been accepted into graduate school.

Award Criteria: The scholarship will be awarded based on:

- a) official college transcripts (academic achievement),
- b) two letters of recommendation (at least one from current or former meteorology professor),
- c) a letter (not longer than one page) from applicant describing their involvement/interest in meteorology.

Logistics: Scholarship money will be transferred following the financial guidelines of the college or university involved in the scholarship. If there weren't any financial guidelines from the school, the Executive Director will make the \$1,000 check payable to both the student and the education institution at the beginning of the September -December semester or quarter.

Interested students can obtain a scholarship application on the NWA Web site at www.nwas.org or by sending a request to the NWA office at 1697 Capri Way, Charlottesville, VA 22911-3534; (434) 296-9966 or NatWeaAsoc@aol.com.

Applications for the NWA Arthur C. Pike scholarship to be awarded in 2002 have to be returned to the NWA office by 15 April 2002. The scholarship winner will be notified in May 2002.

METEOROLOGICAL SATELLITE APPLICATIONS AWARD/GRANT

The Meteorological Satellite Applications Award has been established by the National Weather Association (NWA) to stimulate interest and foster the study and use of satellite remote sensing data in weather forecasting. ***Undergraduate students*** are invited to write an original paper on meteorological satellite applications. Themes of the papers may include original research, case studies, or a survey of applications. The recipient of the award will receive ***a stipend of \$500*** and be invited to present their paper at the NWA Annual Meeting which will be held in Fort Worth, Texas, 19-25 October 2002.

The student must be enrolled as an undergraduate at the time the paper is written and be in good academic standing at the college or university he/she is attending. The student also must be a U.S. citizen or hold permanent resident status.

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: 15 JUNE 2002

Submission of Papers: Student papers should not exceed ten (10) pages including photographs and appendices. Candidates should send

- an **original** and **three** copies of their paper
- a letter of application from the author with the paper title, university affiliation and contact information including mailing address, phone, fax, and e-mail if available
- a letter from the Department Head or other faculty member that confirms that the student was an undergraduate when the paper was written and that the student is in good academic standing. Additionally this letter should highlight the original research and/or special contributions the student has made to this paper.

Submissions should be sent by 15 June 2002 to the National Weather Association, METSAT Award Committee, 1697 Capri Way, Charlottesville, VA 22911-3534. Announcement of the recipient of the award will be made by 1 September 2002.

See the NWA Web site (www.nwas.org) for announcements of awards/grants and for lists of previous winners in a wide variety of categories.

LOCAL CHAPTERS SPONSOR REGIONAL MEETINGS

Second Annual National Severe Weather Workshop will be held 1–2 March 2002 in Norman, OK. The event is sponsored by the NWS, the Central Oklahoma AMS/NWA Chapter, and the Oklahoma Emergency Managers Association. Severe weather experts from across the nation will present the latest techniques for severe weather preparedness and response. Speakers will include NWS leadership, broadcast meteorologists and emergency managers, as well as forecasters and researchers from NWS offices and the NOAA Weather Partners in Norman, including the Storm Prediction Center, NWS Norman Forecast Office, National Severe Storms Laboratory, Radar Operations Center and Warning Decision Training Branch. The workshop will be held at the National Center for Employee Development Marriott Conference Center in Norman, OK. Sponsor and vendor opportunities are available for businesses to promote their products or services during the event. More information is available at (405) 579-0771 or at Web site <http://www.nssl.noaa.gov/nsww2002>.

27th Annual Northeastern Storm Conference sponsored by the Lyndon State College AMS/NWA Chapter will be held on the weekend of 8–10 March 2002 at the Holiday Inn in historic Saratoga Springs, New York. Registration deadline for the conference is 15 February 2002. Be on the lookout for more information about the conference on Web site: <http://apollo.lsc.vsc.edu/ams> or contact Chapter President, Jason Furtado at Fax: 802-626-9770, ATTN: LSC-AMS/NWA or by e-mail: ams@xmail.lsc.vsc.edu or jcf01220@xmail.lsc.vsc.edu

Sixth Annual Severe Storms and Doppler Radar Conference sponsored by the Central Iowa NWA Chapter will commence at 5:00 PM on Thursday, 21 March 2002, and adjourn Saturday, 23 March at 10:00 PM. This year, the Embassy Suites in downtown Des Moines, Iowa will host the event. Register at Web site: <http://www.iowa-nwa.com>.

Mid-Atlantic States Winter Storms Regional Conference 3-5 October 2002. The AMS Board for Operational Government Meteorologists, D-C AMS Chapter, AMS Board of Private Sector Meteorology, and the NWA Weather Analysis and Forecasting Committee are co-sponsoring an operations- and community-focused regional conference on Mid-Atlantic States Winter Storms to be held in the NOAA Auditorium and Science Center, Silver Spring, Maryland, on 3-5 October 2002. The NOAA Auditorium and Science Center is adjacent to the National Weather Service Headquarters. The theme of the conference is *"Improving Mid-Atlantic Winter Storm Forecasts, Warnings and Decision Making."* Invited papers will be presented on: Operational Forecasting Techniques and Procedures; Emerging Research and Operational Applications; Communicating and Using Uncertainty; Community Interaction; and Public Awareness and Education. For more information or to provide suggestions to enhance this conference, please contact Major Ken Carey, Air Force Studies and Analyses Agency (AFSAA/SAFM), 1570 Air Force Pentagon, Washington DC 20330-1570; Kenneth.Carey@pentagon.af.mil or see Web site <http://www.dc-ams.org>.

Next NWA Annual Meeting — 19-25 October, Fort Worth TX

Call for Abstracts

The National Weather Association's 27th Annual Meeting will be held at the Radisson Plaza Hotel, 815 Main Street, Fort Worth, Texas 76102, 19-25 October 2002.

The Annual Meeting will include:

19-20 October: WEATHER BROADCASTER WORKSHOPS beginning Saturday afternoon and continuing all-day Sunday will include special presentations, exhibits and hands-on workshops appropriate to continuing education for weathercasters, but open to all interested. The annual TAPE SWAP will be on Sunday evening. A separate TAPE SWAP for mentoring students is being considered for Saturday evening.

21-25 October: ANNUAL MEETING GENERAL SESSIONS will include a mix of formal presentations, poster sessions, training workshops, and exhibits on a wide variety of topics relating to OPERATIONAL meteorology, hydrology, weather broadcasting, new research applications, and related activities.

The Annual Meeting Program Chairperson is Michael Vescio, National Weather Service Forecast Office, Fort Worth, Texas e-mail: Michael.Vescio@noaa.gov.

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION: The deadline for submission of abstracts is 1 June 2002. Abstracts can be sent via e-mail to the Program Chairperson at Michael.Vescio@noaa.gov. Please write "NWA Abstract" in the subject box. The abstract may be included within the body of the e-mail or as a WordPerfect or Microsoft Word attachment. Please include the following information in the e-mail message: full abstract title, author(s) name(s) and affiliation(s)/address(es) [designate which author(s) will be giving the presentation and whether poster or oral presentation is preferred], audio/visual requirements including software (e.g., PowerPoint, Corel, Internet access) and equipment (e.g., laptop PC, overhead projector), and list the primary contact with their phone number and e-mail address.

ABSTRACTS may also be sent via an Internet online form on the NWA Web site: www.nwas.org/2002abstracts.html. Simply fill out the form in its entirety (you may cut-and-paste your abstract from your word processor into the form), and click on the "Submit Query" button at the bottom of the form.

If you are unable to submit your abstract via e-mail or the online form, please contact Mike Vescio or the NWA office. Presenters will be notified regarding the disposition of their abstracts by 15 August 2002.

For information on exhibits, accommodations, registration and the overall meeting program, please contact the NWA office at Tel/FAX: (434) 296-9966 or e-mail: NatWeaAsoc@aol.com.

NWA ANNUAL MEETING HOTEL INFORMATION: The Radisson Plaza Hotel is in downtown Fort Worth. The NWA discount rates are \$94 for a single room and \$114 for a double room. Please call Radisson Central Reservations 1-800-333-3333 or the Reservations Department of the Radisson Plaza Fort Worth at 817-870-2100 and request the National Weather Association 27th Annual Meeting group rate.

- Mike Vescio, Program Committee Chair

NWA BROADCAST COMMITTEE

Earning and Renewing your NWA Seal

“It is so cool having my NWA Seal on the air...” That’s what I said more than a decade ago after I opened the letter in which I was awarded the NWA Seal of Approval from then Executive Director Sol Hirsch. I put in my time on the air, took the written test and submitted my tape for evaluation. I managed to convince the panel and they liked my on-air work. The reviewing panels have become even more particular these days to keep the standards high amidst the increasing capabilities of on-air weathercasting especially in graphic aids.

The procedures have not changed much since then, except that now Kevin Lavin is the Executive Director (since 1993). He and all the volunteers in the Broadcast Seal Committee headed up by Alan Sealls, try to keep the process moving and promote quality broadcasting. As of 31 December 2001, 680 NWA Seals of Approval have been awarded since the program began in 1982. In 2001, 45 Seals were earned. Although 680 Seals have been granted, only 508 are currently valid. Some weather broadcasters have retired, changed career fields or had their Seals revoked by not recertifying every three years or not staying members in good standing. The NWA Seal is accepted by an increasing number of news directors as a symbol of excellence.

In keeping with our committee task to continually review and update Seal of Approval procedures, I recently reviewed the proposed update of the written exam. I think it’s a solid, diverse test that covers the many areas involved in on-air weathercasting. While there are no education requirements to apply for the Seal, it’s up to you to get a meteorology background, not just to pass the written exam, but to clearly explain the weather story on-air. That’s why we also have a tape evaluation. Even after a candidate passes the written exam, he or she is subject to an evaluation by a peer panel whose job is to grade your sample presentations and provide constructive criticism. Remember that this is not something we simply hand out because you are a member. The Seal represents the National Weather Association and all the members therein, and as such it is important that those displaying the Seal are considered to be skilled weathercasters exceeding standards of quality and continually improving themselves.

The categories on which we grade candidate's tapes are: 1) Logical Order of Presentation, 2) Meteorological Competency, 3) Use of Graphics, 4) Communication Skills, 5) Sufficient Geographical Area Coverage and 6) Terminology. These are fairly easy to understand, but if you have questions, check the NWA Web site at www.nwas.org or you can e-mail me for further info.

It’s an easy process to get started and a rewarding one to finish. So, make this the year that you attain the coveted

NWA Seal of Approval for radio and television weathercasters.

If you already have a Seal, then you need to keep it up-to-date by continuing your weather education. The best way to renew is to attend at least one NWA Annual Meeting every three years, and if you read my last report, you know how rewarding the meetings are. This coming October we are getting together in Fort Worth Texas, so plan a trip to the Lone Star State next fall and I’ll see you there. Please send your thoughts to me at skyeeye@fuse.net.

- Rich Apuzzo, *Broadcast Meteorology Committee Chair*

AN OLYMPIC FIRST: PARTNERS PROVIDE WEATHER SUPPORT FOR WINTER GAMES

Weather will play a critical role at the February 2002 Olympic Winter Games, and a first-ever partnership among government, academia and private-sector meteorologists is ready to provide accurate forecasts for athletes and spectators making the trek to Salt Lake City. This is the first time U.S. Government and private meteorologists will share forecast responsibilities for the Olympics, as the National Weather Service teams with the University of Utah and 13 private meteorologists under contract to KSL- TV (Chan. 5) in Salt Lake City.

The XIX Olympic Winter Games will run Feb. 8 - 24 and the VII Paralympic Winter Games, March 7 - 16 in the Salt Lake City area. The NWS Forecast Office in Salt Lake City will serve as the official 2002 Olympic Winter Games' Weather Operations Center. They will provide the baseline meteorological information through routine forecast products and services designed to support public safety, emergency operations, traffic, security, aviation and avalanche control. The office also will issue a special Hazardous Weather Potential Outlook twice daily. Additionally, the office will provide historical climate data for venues and cities.

The public-private partnership is a collaboration of effort that makes best use of existing assets to serve the Games with the most accurate forecasting operations available. The core of the weather observations for the 2002 Winter Olympics is called MesoWest, which encompasses nearly 3,000 weather stations in the western U.S. from more than 70 participating organizations.

Data from Road Environmental Sensor Stations in Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming also contribute to the up-to-the-minute observations. The University of Utah will process the data. The Weather Support Group will display online graphical products every 15 minutes for the Games' officials, media and the public.

NOAA's Forecast Systems Laboratory, in Boulder, Colo., developed a PC-based weather display system

called FX-Net. This provides access to current weather and forecast information at outdoor venues for use by KSL-TV forecasters. The communication network ensures all forecasters have access to the same weather information as they provide their critical forecasts for the Games. Mark Eubank, head meteorologist at KSL-TV, will lead the 13 private meteorologists, who will provide official weather forecasts at the outdoor venues. They also will prepare weather forecasts for the opening and closing ceremonies, daily weather briefings for the organizing committees and to the Main Media Center.

Faculty and students at the University of Utah Department of Meteorology will maintain 27 weather sensors at the five outdoor venue sites and other key locations throughout northern Utah. The university will run high resolution analysis models every hour and high resolution computer forecast models four times a day.

"The weather legacy of the Games will be the model partnership, which demonstrates government, private industry, and academia can work together to provide improved forecasting tools, and a better understanding of winter weather in complex terrain. The data gathered will support future mountain weather research. The special software developed to exchange information between the forecasters has already been used by NOAA's National Weather Service to support fire weather and all-hazards forecasting," said NWS Western Region Director Vickie Nadolski.

For more information about the Weather Support Group visit Web site: <http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/Saltlake>, University of Utah Department of Meteorology: <http://www.met.utah.edu>, or KSL Private Meteorologists: <http://www.ksl.com/TV>. The Salt Lake 2002 Olympic Winter Games: <http://www.saltlake2002.com>.

NWA Newsletter (ISSN 0271-1044)

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Members receive the monthly NWA Newsletter and quarterly *National Weather Digest* as part of their regular, student or corporate membership privileges. Contact the NWA office or view the Web site for membership information. Newsletter subscriptions are available at \$18.00 per year plus extra shipping costs outside USA. Single copies are \$1.50. Contact the NWA Executive Director's office (listed above) with address changes by phone, regular mail or e-mail.

JOB CORNER

(Ed: The NWA lists job openings free from equal opportunity employers for the benefit of members. See the Job section on the NWA Web site: www.nwas.org for more complete details on the following jobs, short notice listings and job links.)

Saint Louis University The Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences at Saint Louis University, Saint Louis, Missouri, announces a tenure-track faculty position at the Assistant Professor level beginning in the fall semester of 2002. The Search Committee is looking for a candidate who can conduct vigorous research and teach at both the graduate and undergraduate levels in atmospheric sciences. Candidates with strengths in areas of physical and dynamic meteorology are encouraged to apply. Special consideration will be given to applicants with expertise in numerical modeling of mesoscale processes. The successful candidate will have experience in numerical modeling, precipitation processes, and/or cloud dynamics. Candidates with breadth and enthusiasm in teaching at the undergraduate level are also preferred. Applicants must possess a Ph. D. at the time of appointment. For more details about SLU programs and activities, visit the Web page at <http://www.eas.slu.edu>. Applicants should submit a one- or two-page statement of teaching and research interests and professional goals, a Curriculum Vita including teaching and research accomplishments, publications, the names and addresses (including e-mail) and telephone numbers of at least four references to: Charles E. Graves, Search Committee Chair Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences, Saint Louis University, 3507 Laclede Avenue, Saint Louis, MO 63103. Further inquiries can be sent to search@eas.slu.edu.

Review of applications will begin immediately and will continue until the position is filled. The deadline for applications is March 1, 2002, but later inquiries may be considered. Saint Louis University, a Catholic, Jesuit Institution dedicated to education, research and healthcare, is an affirmative action, equal opportunity employer and encourages applications from women and minorities.

WeatherData Incorporated is the leader in the rapidly emerging field of consultative weather risk management, serving Fortune 2000 companies across North America. To learn more about the value we bring to our prestigious clients visit: www.weatherdata.com. We are looking for dynamic, energetic individuals to become part of the forecasting team in our Meteorology Operations Center. We have entry level, experienced, and managerial positions available. The ideal candidates will have: A strong background in applied meteorology and excellent forecasting skills, Bachelor's degree in meteorology or the equivalent military training, A bias toward measuring results, Energy, drive, a proactive work ethic and a passion for customer service. Our fast-paced environment requires flexibility, attention to detail, and the ability to focus on customer requirements while meeting strict deadlines. Managerial candidates will have 5+ years of operational meteorology experience and a background in team leadership. WeatherData offers competitive base salaries, as well as very competitive benefits, profit sharing, and 401(k). For immediate consideration please submit your resume and cover letter to Steve Easley at seasley@weatherdata.com, by fax to (316) 265-1949 or by mail to: 245 N Waco Suite 310, Wichita, KS 67202.

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