

Outstanding Alum Award Presentation and Seminar

Jennifer Mahoney

Director, NOAA/Global Systems Division

“The Unimagined Path”

Hosted by Jeff Collett

Tuesday, Nov. 12

ATS room 101

**Refreshments will be served at 3:30 p.m. in the weather lab,
with the award presentation and seminar to follow**

The path one takes in life is never as envisioned 20 years earlier. Mentors combined with motivation mixed with opportunity can lead to outcomes never imagined. One of those outcomes I had never imagined is leading one of NOAA’s premier scientific laboratories, The Global Systems Division.

My career in meteorology started, as many of them do, with my early amazement of the weather. Severe storms put the fear in me, but the idea of flying into hurricanes energized me. I knew early in life that meteorology was the path I wanted to take. However, overcoming negativity, discouragement, and opposition to achieve my goals took personal courage and amazing scientific mentors. Many of those mentors were here at CSU.

NOAA’s Global Systems Division is a scientific laboratory within the Earth System Research Laboratory in Boulder. GSD scientists and engineers are tackling cutting-edge scientific problems including the development of the next generation regional-to-global Unified Forecast System, Exascale-computing technologies, and next-generation decision support tools that provide communities with actionable information. In addition to accelerating advancements in these technologies, GSD must also advance its vision to adjust to new community-based scientific initiatives.

My presentation will summarize my journey to the position of Director at NOAA’s Global Systems Division (GSD) and offer some lessons learned and tips targeted to early-career scientists ready to start a new career adventure. I will also provide an overview of the cutting-edge scientific research that is underway at GSD as well as my thoughts on where atmospheric science in the new “community-based” environment is heading.