



UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA
A&GS
COLLEGE OF ATMOSPHERIC & GEOGRAPHIC SCIENCES

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News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA NATIONAL WEATHER CENTER TO HOST PUBLIC DISCUSSION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Interviews with the symposium presenters can be arranged upon request or at the presentation with advance arrangements. For more information, call (405) 325-1819 or e-mail amybuchanan@ou.edu.)

NORMAN, Okla. – The University of Oklahoma National Weather Center will host a free, public discussion on the climate and its impacts at 7 p.m. Monday, Feb. 8, as the opening event for the Regional Climate Symposium, "Regional Climate – Monitoring, Modeling, Predicting, and Impacts," being held Feb. 9 and 10 at the National Weather Center.

Lynne Carter, from the Southern Climate Impacts Planning Program at Louisiana State University, will deliver the public address and lead an open discussion about global climate change and what it means regionally and locally.

"With this symposium, we are aiming to increase the awareness and understanding by both the general public and the university community regarding global climate change," said John Snow, dean of the OU College of Atmospheric and Geographic Sciences. "We are fortunate to have the Science Applications International Corporation as a major sponsor of this endeavor.

"The Monday evening session will be structured to provide an opportunity for many outside the scientific community to voice their perspectives on our changing climate. The day-and-a-half of scientific sessions that follow will cover recent research results in this critical area."

The two-day symposium that follows will bring together experts in diverse fields of climate sciences to discuss the state of the science. The scientific sessions, beginning Tuesday morning, will include topics such as observations and monitoring, seasonal and inter-annual effects of climate, modeling and verification, policy and economics.

Also scheduled is a luncheon presentation at noon Tuesday. Gary McManus, associate state climatologist for the Oklahoma Climatological Survey, will deliver the talk, "Global Climate Change and the Implications for Oklahoma."

There is no fee for attending the symposium or the luncheon, but advance registration is required. Registration, a full agenda and directions to the National Weather Center are available online at <http://nwc.ou.edu/symposium/2009/> or by calling the OU College of Atmospheric and Geographic Sciences at (405) 325-3095.

The symposium is being supported by a grant from Science Applications International Corporation, with additional support provided by the OU College of Atmospheric and Geographic Sciences and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Regional Integrated Science and Assessments program at OU.

The National Weather Center is located on OU's Research Campus on the corner of Highway 9 and Jenkins Avenue. It houses a unique confederation of OU, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and state organizations that work together in partnership to improve the understanding of events occurring in Earth's atmosphere over a wide range of time and space scales.

Lynne Carter

Lynne Carter is the program manager of SCIPP at Louisiana State University. Carter is active in climate impacts and adaptation work. She was a member of the writing team for the "2009 Climate Impacts on the United States" document from the Climate Change Impacts Program; was the regional liaison for the U.S. National Assessment of Climate Variability and Change, as the director for a nonprofit organization focused on building resilience and adapting to climate changes with communities; and continues to work in education and outreach around climate issues.

The Southern Climate Impacts Planning Program

SCIPP is a new, climate-research initiative formed to help communities better plan for weather and climate-related disasters in the southern United States, particularly in the face of changing climate. Focusing on the six-state study region of Oklahoma, Texas, Louisiana, Arkansas, Tennessee and Mississippi, SCIPP concentrates on the high frequency of hazardous climatological events that plague the region. This includes extremes in precipitation, both droughts and floods, as well as other hazards, including severe storms and hurricanes. For more information, visit www.southernclimate.org.

Science Applications International Corporation

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The OU College of Atmospheric and Geographic Sciences

The College of A&GS is composed of three academic units – the Department of Geography, the School of Meteorology and the Geographic Information Science program – in addition to 10 research and service units. It is the college's goal to administer, guide and direct an academic enterprise in geography, geographic information science and meteorology so as to become the international leader in weather- and climate-related education and training, environmental and sustainability studies, research and development and extension and outreach. Three hundred undergraduate students and more than 100 graduate students are enrolled in the college. For more information, visit <http://ags.ou.edu>.

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University of Oklahoma

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Southern Climate Impacts Planning Program

www.southernclimate.org

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