



National Weather Service

Building a Weather-Ready Nation

NWS Spring 2020 Partners Webinar

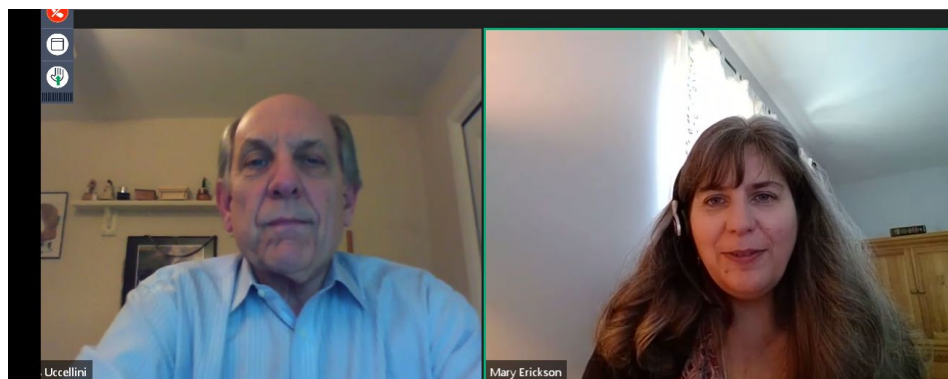
On May 15, 2020, the National Weather Service (NWS) hosted a webinar with a diverse set of participants from across the weather, water and climate enterprise. Over 140 participants connected to the webinar. The purpose of the webinar was to provide NWS Partners with NWS informational updates and to hear from NWS Partners in the context of COVID-19. The webinar slides are [here](#) and a full recording of the webinar is available [here](#).

The agenda was as follows:

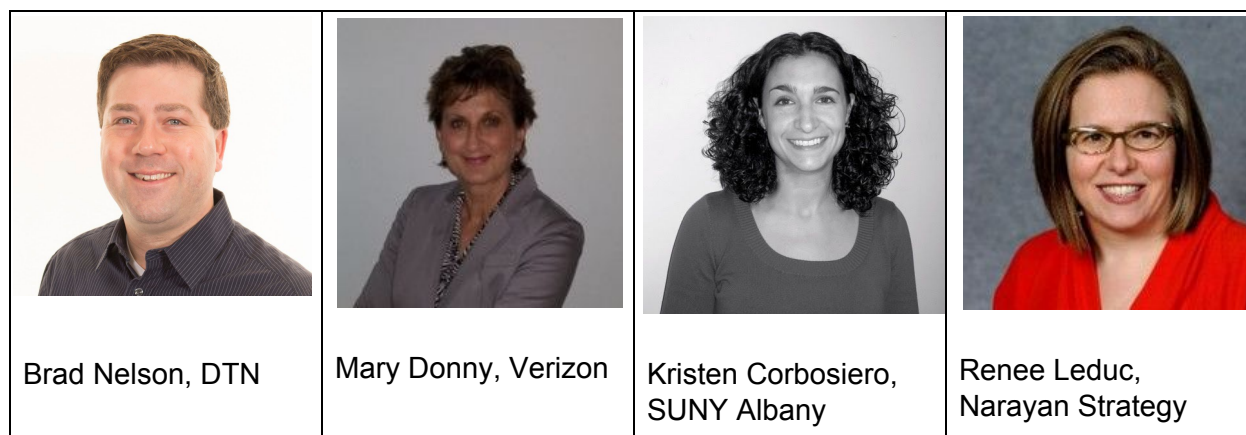
- NWS operational updates and contributions
- Partners sharing experiences, best practices, contributions from recent months
- Questions and discussion

NWS Deputy Director, Mary Erickson, and **NWS Director, Louis Uccellini**, provided NWS updates. Some key points included:

- Thanks to the many Partners who have stepped up to support our Nation during the COVID emergency as well as to those who are continuing to connect and support the Enterprise community as a whole.
- NWS has been focused on its People First; Mission Always. NWS is very proud of our workforce's response to maintain operations.
- NWS is updating the NEXRAD network and making significant progress with auto launchers in Alaska. NWS also highlighted the key atmospheric model upgrades both completed and upcoming.
- NWS reviewed the April 2020 severe weather outbreak in the southeast U.S. and highlighted the trend in low-end tornado event lead time improved in early 2020.
- NWS stressed the importance and tracking of all components of its dissemination system.
- NWS highlighted the progress of the new facility for the Albany, NY Weather Forecast Office (WFO) and the State University of New York Albany (SUNY Albany) Department of Atmospheric and Environmental Science (DAES) which will be collocated in the new Emerging Technology and Entrepreneurship Complex (E-TEC).



The following Partners provided their perspectives for the benefit of the Enterprise and for discussion: **Brad Nelson** - Meteorologist with DTN; **Mary Donny** - Senior Manager at Verizon's Global Event Management Center; **Kristen Corbosiero** - Associate Professor & Graduate Program Director Univ. at Albany; and **Renee Leduc** - Founder and Principal at Narayan Strategy.



Some key themes included:

- All of the speakers noted the successes in being flexible, both by their organizations and individually, during this time of COVID. Adjusting to remote working and serving customers and clients similarly has been challenging and yet has allowed for creative and innovative solutions and adjustments to meeting the continued demand for weather, water and climate information, dissemination and communication infrastructure and education.
- Academia is concerned about the potential schedule impacts to research projects, particularly those that require field work. Some students are coping with accessibility limitations while they are off university campus.
- Policy community is still very active and working on issues such as spectrum.

NWS closed out the webinar with a preview of upcoming engagements:

- Hazard Simplification Project Update and External Feedback Webinars - June 2020
- Virtual NWS Partners Meeting - July 30, 2020
- Partner calls with NWS Deputy Director - Mary Erickson is willing to have one-on-one conversations with partners on request. Please contact Andrea Bleistein if you are interested.