

Board for Private Sector Meteorologists (BPSM)
Mentoring Subcommittee Conference Call Summary

Tuesday, March 25, 2008, 12:00-12:45 p.m. EDT

- Telecon Participants: Kyle Beatty, Ken Carey, Brian Mardirosian, Kathy Strebe, John Toohey-Morales, Gary Rasmussen, Bruce Thomas

- Summary:
 - Ken summarized why we were exploring opportunities to expand and administer our evolving mentoring program more efficiently.
 - Kyle pointed out that the limits to our program's growth are primarily due to a limited number of mentors (the number of interested students is appearing to grow exponentially) as it is a challenge to recruit enough mentors for all the students.
 - We are looking to other Boards under John's purview for a wider field of potential mentors.
 - Kyle took the lead in describing what he sees as overarching goals
 1. needs for a centralized database and more efficient processes
 2. tools to help automate dataFor example, an on-line application form that a student can go to on a website, enter their information onto a fill-in-the-blank template, then that data goes into a centralized database that allows access to all our Board members. Also, having an "independent" site where one can fill out feedback forms on our program, how mentor-mentee pairings worked out (or didn't), etc., will likely lead to more honest, constructive criticism-type feedback.
 - Brian realized that one of their programmers does the AMS Award nomination process, which is online, and it does things similar to what we think we need.

- Action Items:
 - Brian will get together with Kyle to have a follow-up discussion, to include the online AMS award process, etc. Kyle will then let us know when would be a good time for our next committee call
 - Kathy: set up next committee conference call

- Next Subcommittee Meeting: TBD