For immediate release

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American Meteorological Society Announces Rick Spinrad as 2026 President-Elect

Marilyn Averill, Julie Demuth, Jordan Gerth, Maureen McCann, and Aaron Piña will serve on the AMS Council beginning in 2026.

[Boston, MA—December 23, 2025] Members of the American Meteorological Society (AMS), the professional society for weather, water, and climate sciences and services, have elected Richard (Rick) Spinrad to the position of AMS president-elect for 2026, as well as electing five new council members.

Spinrad, an oceanographer, formerly served as U.S. Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and the 11th administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). He will be inducted as president-elect on Sunday, 25 January, 2026, during the AMS's 106th Annual Meeting in Houston, Texas.

The five newly elected AMS Council Members are Marilyn Averill, Julie Demuth, Jordan Gerth, Maureen McCann, and Aaron Piña. They will begin their council terms in 2026.

"I am deeply humbled by the honor of being elected AMS President-Elect," says Spinrad. "Standing on the shoulders of my predecessors, many of whom I have had the pleasure to call colleagues and mentors (even as they tolerated an oceanographer in their midst!), I get a profound sense of the challenges and opportunities we face as a professional community. For three decades I have looked to AMS as a forum for scientific leadership, policy advice, and professional development. Now more than ever, the extraordinary collection of students, researchers, service providers, policy makers, entrepreneurs, and educators (as well as many others) who make AMS such a successful enterprise will be called upon to advance our understanding of Earth systems, and advocate for the continued growth of knowledge. I look forward to serving the Society and following the past model of leadership while making AMS an even more essential element of our professional community."

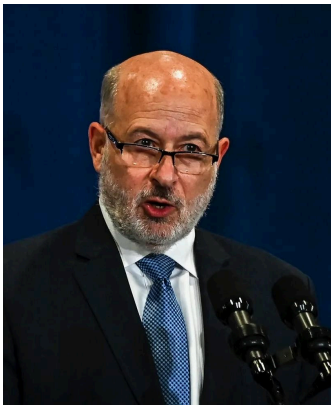
Spinrad will serve a one-year term as president-elect, then serve as president of the AMS beginning at the 2027 Annual Meeting.

Learn about current AMS Leadership and recently elected leaders.

About Rick Spinrad

Richard (Rick) W. Spinrad, PhD, is an oceanographer with more than 40 years of experience in the public, private, academic, and non-profit sectors. He served from 2021 to 2025 as the United States' Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and the 11th Administrator of NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administrator). An elected member of the U.S. National Academy of

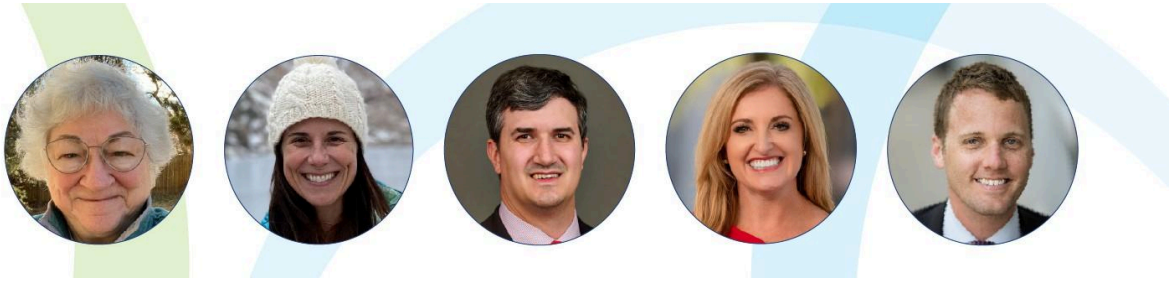
Engineering, he is currently a professor emeritus of oceanography at Oregon State University (OSU), where he previously served as vice president for research.



Dr. Spinrad served as NOAA's chief scientist and led NOAA's Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research and National Ocean Service. He also co-led the White House Committee that developed the nation's first set of ocean research priorities. As program manager at the Office of Naval Research and senior civilian at the Office of the Oceanographer of the Navy, he was awarded the U.S. Navy Distinguished Civilian Service Award. He has held faculty appointments at OSU, the U.S. Naval Academy, and George Mason University; was Executive Director at the Consortium for Oceanographic Research and Education; was President of Sea Tech, Inc.; and worked as a research scientist at the Bigelow Laboratory for Ocean Sciences. Dr. Spinrad served as the U.S. permanent representative to the United Nations' Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission. He is the recipient of Presidential Rank Awards from presidents George W. Bush and Barack H. Obama.

Dr. Spinrad received his B.A. from The Johns Hopkins University, and his M.S. and PhD from Oregon State University. Read full bio.

About New AMS Councilors



The five new 2026 AMS Councilors. Left to right: Marilyn Averill, Julie Demuth, Jordan Gerth, Maureen McCann, and Aaron Piña.

The AMS Council is the Society's principal governing body, and consists of the current AMS president, AMS president-elect, and the last two past presidents; the AMS executive director, the AMS secretary, and the AMS treasurer (who are non-voting members); and 15 other voting members of the Society, each elected for a three-year term, with one-third retiring each year. Each year, four councilors are elected to represent the academic sector, the private sector, and the government sector, with a fifth councilor appointed by AMS Council. The new councilors are (in alphabetical order):

MARILYN AVERILL

Marilyn Averill, JD, MPA, is a retired environmental attorney and a senior fellow with the Getches-Wilkinson Center for Natural Resources, Energy, and the Environment at the University of Colorado Law School.

JULIE DEMUTH

Julie L. Demuth, PhD, is a project scientist IV in the Mesoscale and Microscale Meteorology (MMM) Lab and the lead of the Convergence Science Program at the NSF National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR).

JORDAN J. GERTH

Jordan J. Gerth, PhD, is chief of the Architecture Planning and System Innovation branch at the NOAA National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service (NESDIS) Office of Systems Architecture and Engineering (SAE).

MAUREEN MCCANN
Maureen R. McCann is a broadcast meteorologist at Spectrum News 13 in Orlando, Florida.

AARON PIÑA
Aaron J. Piña, PhD, is the National Program Leader for Atmospheric Sciences and Fire Weather Research at the USDA Forest Service.

All bios and candidate statements for recently elected AMS leaders can be found on the AMS Election Information page.

About the American Meteorological Society

The American Meteorological Society advances the atmospheric and related sciences, technologies, applications, and services for the benefit of society. Founded in 1919, AMS has a membership of more than 12,000 professionals, students, and weather enthusiasts. AMS publishes 12 atmospheric and related oceanic and hydrologic science journals—in print and online; sponsors multiple scientific specialty conferences annually; and offers numerous programs and services. Visit us at https://www.ametsoc.org/.

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