

REAL-WORLD METEOROLOGY

A series of profiles celebrating a half-century of Certified Consulting Meteorologists



Who: David R. Legates

What: Climate scientist and forensic meteorologist

When: CCM since 2001

Where: Middletown, Delaware

Why: Realized the value of being a CCM in addition to holding an advanced degree, particularly in consulting

How: David became a CCM after encouragement from two other CCMs with whom he was working as a consultant on separate projects. While his Ph.D. degree in climatology has helped him professionally, the CCM has been very important in demonstrating that he has achieved technical and professional competency and holds high standards of character and experience. Problem-solving—be it academic inquiry, real-time weather observation, or forensic reconstruction—is integral to David's professional endeavors, and the CCM designation has been exceedingly useful in those efforts.



In His Own Words: “My research and consulting activities have been focused in three specific areas: climatology, observation platforms, and forensic meteorology. In the academic arena, my interests have focused largely on precipitation, including the accurate measurement of precipitation (most notably, snowfall) by accounting for precipitation gauge measurement biases, calibration of radar estimates of rainfall, and issues related to climate change and the impact of precipitation on the hydrologic cycle. I also have been pleased to have helped design one of the densest and most comprehensive state mesonets in the country.

“The Delaware Environmental Observing System includes operation and maintenance of 50 weather stations in Delaware and Chester County, Pennsylvania, and a vertical wind profiler as well as about 200 other observing platforms comprising a large suite of environmental measurements. This system has greatly helped me serve the public as the Delaware state climatologist. Moreover, I have been involved with numerous court cases and engineering applications where weather and climate played an important—and sometimes pivotal—role. I have found it to be very rewarding and beneficial to be a CCM, and I encourage others to pursue this recognition of achievement, character, and excellence.”

For more information on the Certified Consulting Meteorologist (CCM) Program, please visit the AMS Web site at www.ametsoc.org/amscert/index.html.