

The AMS Board for Early Career Professionals wants to highlight members of the weather, water and climate enterprise who exemplify the AMS Mission just a few years into their career. Our “Perspectives from Early Career Professionals” segment aims to highlight early career achievements in multiple sectors of meteorology.

This segment highlights David Moran, CCM and AMS Certified Consulting Meteorologist.

BECP: Where do you currently work and what path did you take to get to the position you are currently in today?

DM: I currently work as a Consulting Meteorologist for Weather Decision Technologies.

BECP: What is it like to be an early career professional and work in the private sector?

DM: All of my work has been done on a consulting basis and I enjoy the variety of work I've done. I've been able to forecast for a wide variety of industries, write articles, and prepare depositions for weather related court cases.

BECP: How important were internships early on to get to where you are today?

DM: What was the most difficult part of the job search process for you? Finding my first job was really tough because many of the positions I looked at wanted prior experience (which, of course, right out of college, I had none.

BECP: What is something unique you've been able to accomplish/experience so far in your career?

DM: I was able to earn my CCM in early 2017. Less than a year after receiving my CCM, I was invited to become a member of the CCM Board.

BECP: Is there anything you would have done differently in college knowing what you know now about your job?

DM: I've done some consulting work now that I've gotten by CCM and have run into some cases where taking some additional statistics courses would've been useful.

BECP: To reach this point in your career, what role have mentors and advisors played?

DM: They've been instrumental in giving me advice about college and career, as well as bounce ideas off of.

BECP: Whom do you admire in our profession? Why do you feel that way?

DM: Too many to mention! If I had to pick one, it'd be Travis Meyer at KOTV channel 6 in Tulsa. I've known him since I was 11 (I'll be 35 in October) and he's always encouraged me in everything I have done. He's one of my heroes.

BECP: What advice would you give to an early career professional starting in this field?

DM: Don't get narrow minded about a career path. You may have to take a detour in order to get to where you ultimately want to go. Also, never quit learning and enhancing your skill set. There's always something to learn.

BECP: Do you have any helpful tips for someone going through the job search right now?

DM: Be persistent. That first job may not be easy to get, but getting your name out there as much as you can is important whether it's through social media, your personal website, etc.

BECP: What recommendations would you give young professionals to avoid becoming overwhelmed or burnt out?

DM: Take time for yourself. I have a lot going on between my professional life and serving on the CCM Board. It's easy to get burned out if you don't take time for yourself

BECP: What are some challenges you have experienced as an early career professional?

DM: Early on as a meteorologist with Cerebral Palsy, my biggest challenge was getting some to let me show them what I had to offer as a meteorologist.

BECP: What do you want to be doing in 5 years? Why?

DM: I enjoy forecasting, as well as forensic meteorology, so probably a combination of the two as those seem to be what I enjoy doing most as a meteorologist.

BECP: How do you feel the field has changed?

DM: When I was in college, dual polarization radar was the "up and coming thing". It's been interesting to watch it go from something I learned about in college to something I use daily professionally.

BECP: What does a "work life balance" mean to you?

DM: Being able to be productive professionally, but also being able to "turn it off" at the end of the day and taking time to relax.

