

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 month’s segment highlights Haley Clawson, Chief Meteorologist in Palm Springs, CA.

Read the interview below to learn about her career path in broadcasting and recommendations for young professionals.

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

HC: I’m currently the Chief Meteorologist at KESQ in Palm Springs, CA.

Leading up to this point I attended and graduated from Mississippi State University in Starkville, MS with a B.S. in Geoscience and a concentration in broadcast meteorology. From Mississippi I moved back home to Florida to intern with WFOR in Miami and WFTX in Fort Myers. My first on-air job was with KRBC in Abilene, TX as weekend meteorologist/MMJ, then to KTAB as morning meteorologist.

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

HC: Internships are invaluable! From understanding the inner-workings of a newsroom to building confidence in from the camera, my internships helped to affirm I was on the right career path.

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

HC: I wish I would have minored in a foreign language, like Spanish. Everywhere I’ve lived (except Mississippi), there has been a large hispanic presence. Being able to communicate with all of the community would be invaluable.

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

HC: Renny Vandewege, David Bernard, Craig Setzer, Michelle Cunningham and those beside me in the classroom... they’ve all played a part in influencing both attitude and skill in this industry.

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

HC: It’s going to be hard. There’s a chance you’re not going to enjoy every aspect of your first job. I didn’t. But first jobs don’t last forever and the skills gained by doing what you don’t like will pay off in the future!

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

HC: Explore hobbies! Yes, the job can take a toll (as any job could) but having a way to relax and/or distract your busy mind is everything. Just know that your situation is temporary and everyone has been in a similar situation before. Don’t hesitate to reach out to peers!

BECP: Do you have any tips for those interested in leadership or mentorship?

HC: Whether you intend to mentor or not, someone is looking up to you. It could be a fellow co-worker or a child watching from home. Someone is always watching your next move.

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

HC: THIS... because I just re-signed a contract. HAHA! Would also like to explore integrating teaching part-time. Details are still unknown but have 5 years to figure it out!

