



# A Career With the National Weather Service

Dan Thompson

Meteorologist, General Forecaster  
National Weather Service at Albany, NY





# Why I Like My Job

Mission Statement: Protection of Lives and Property  
and Enhancement of the National Economy  
*Science-based service organization*

Excitement level of being in the "hot seat" during  
high-impact weather

Community outreach and developing partnerships

Look at "cool weather stuff" and get paid for it







# My Background

Born: Eau Claire, WI

Meteorologist  
Intern, NWSFO  
Detroit/Pontiac, MI  
2013–2016

MS, Atmospheric  
Science, SUNY  
Albany 2010–2012

General  
Forecaster,  
NWSFO Albany  
2016–present

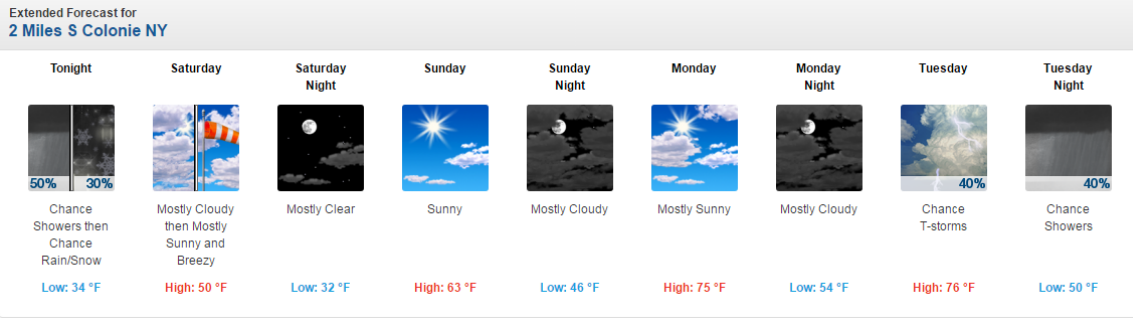
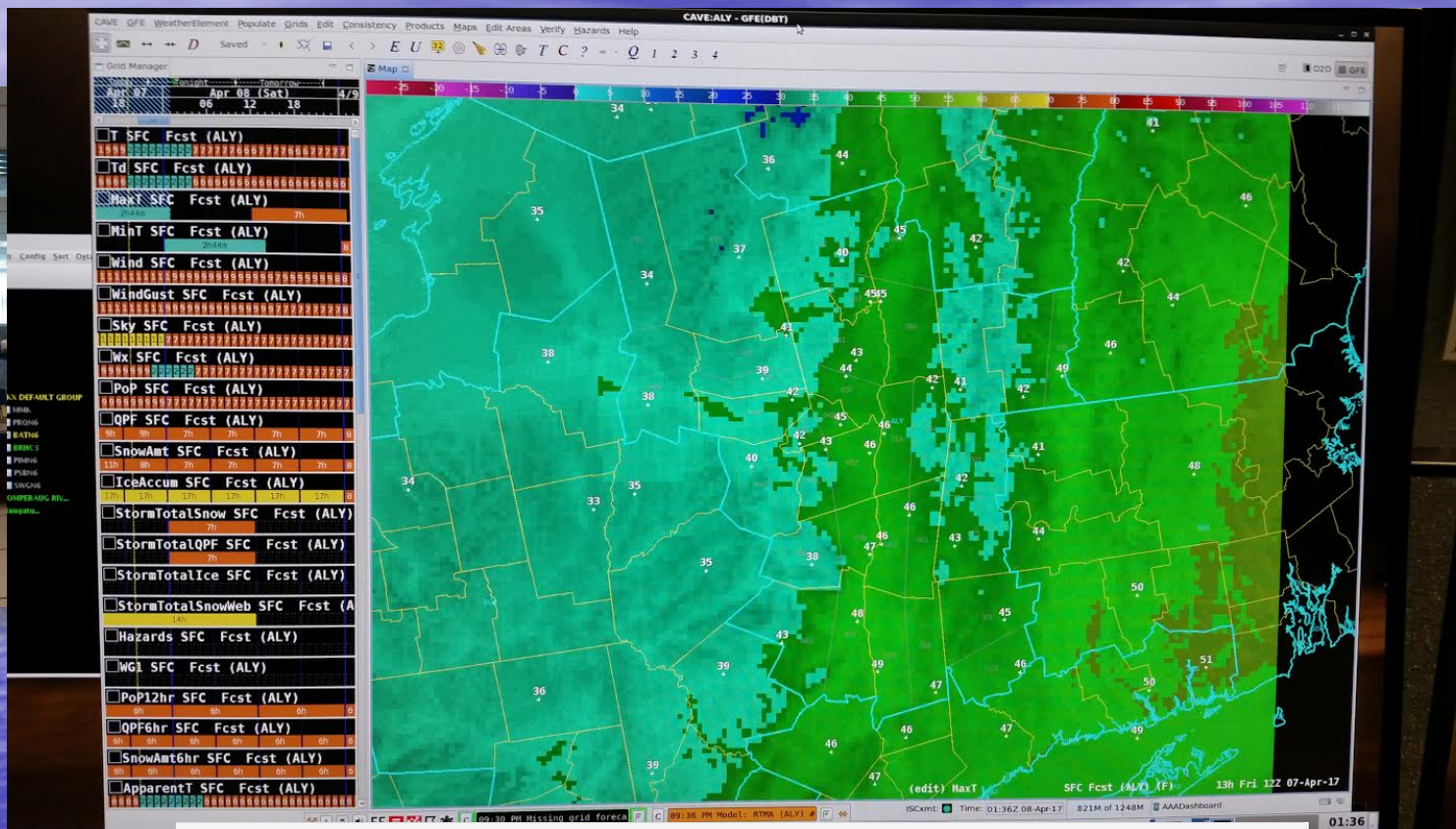
BS, Atmospheric and  
Oceanic Sciences,  
University of  
Wisconsin – Madison  
2004–2008

Meteorologist/Graphics  
Technician, Weather  
Central, Inc. 2008–  
2010

Meteorologist,  
WeatherWorks  
2012–2013



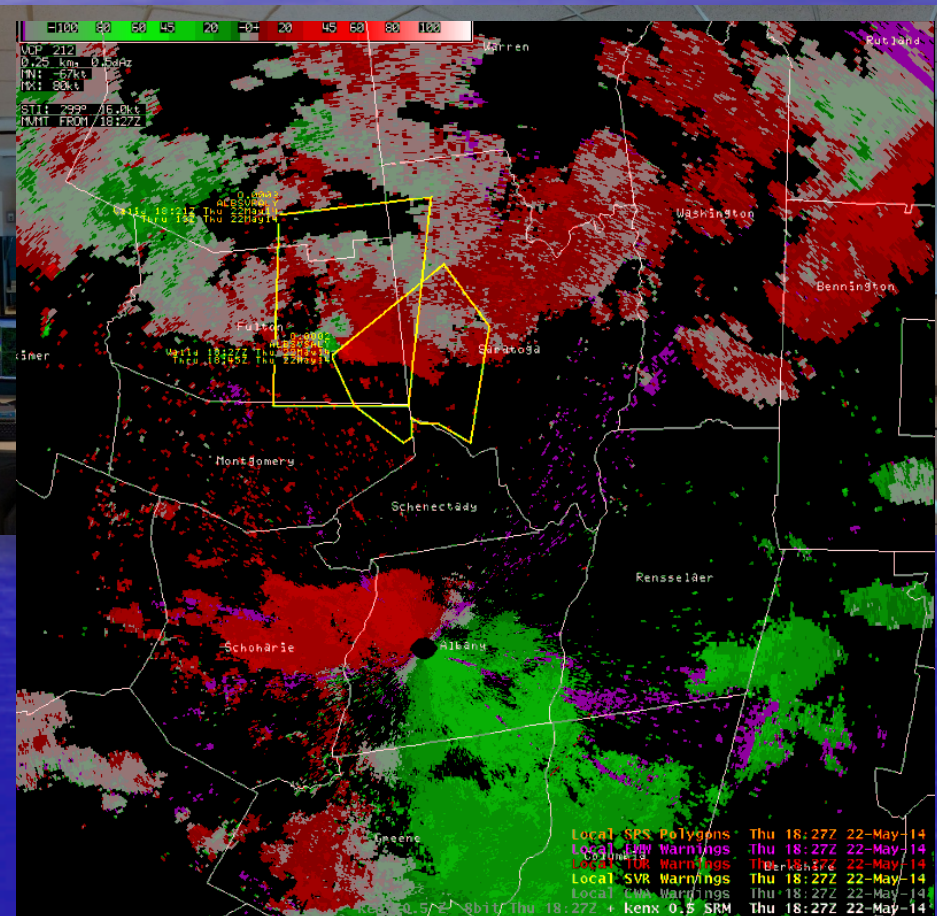
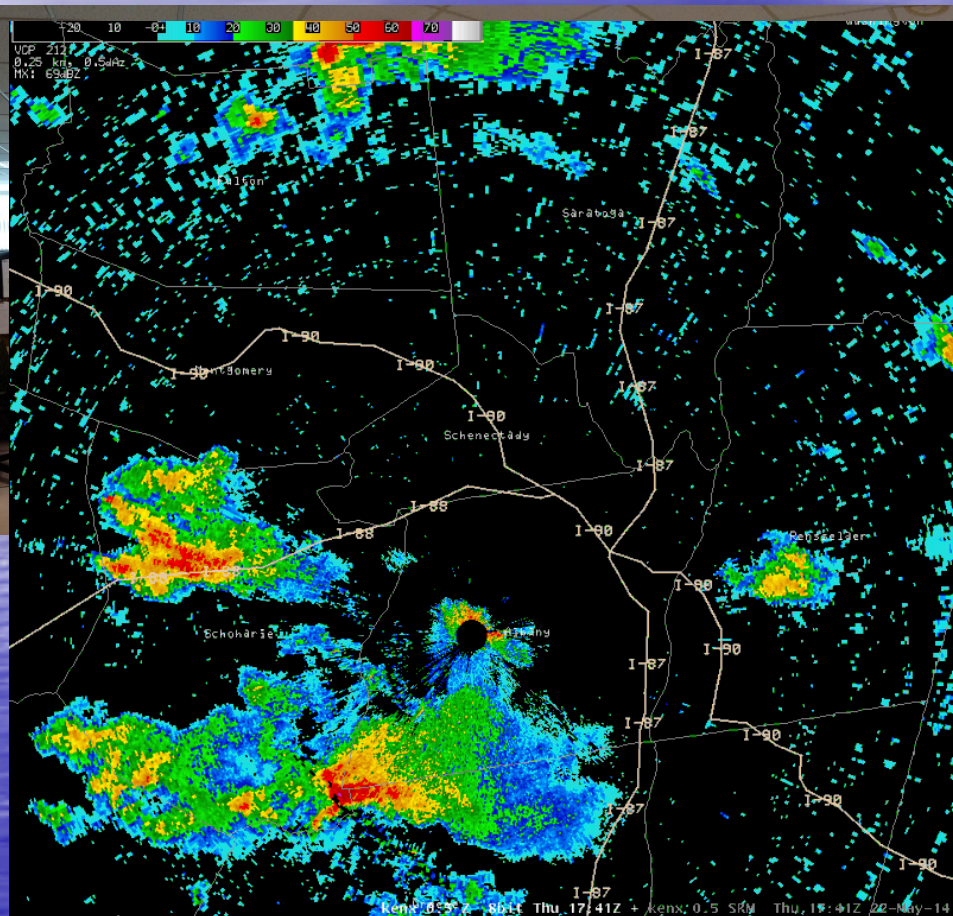
# Responsibilities







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## Program Management/Extracurricular Activities

- Aviation
- Marine
- Hydrology
- Fire Weather
- Research
- Upper Air
- Data Collection
- AWIPS/Computers
- Doppler Radar
- Weather Radio
- Web Site
- Outreach
- Spotter Training
- Climate Data
- Social Media







# NWS Evolve

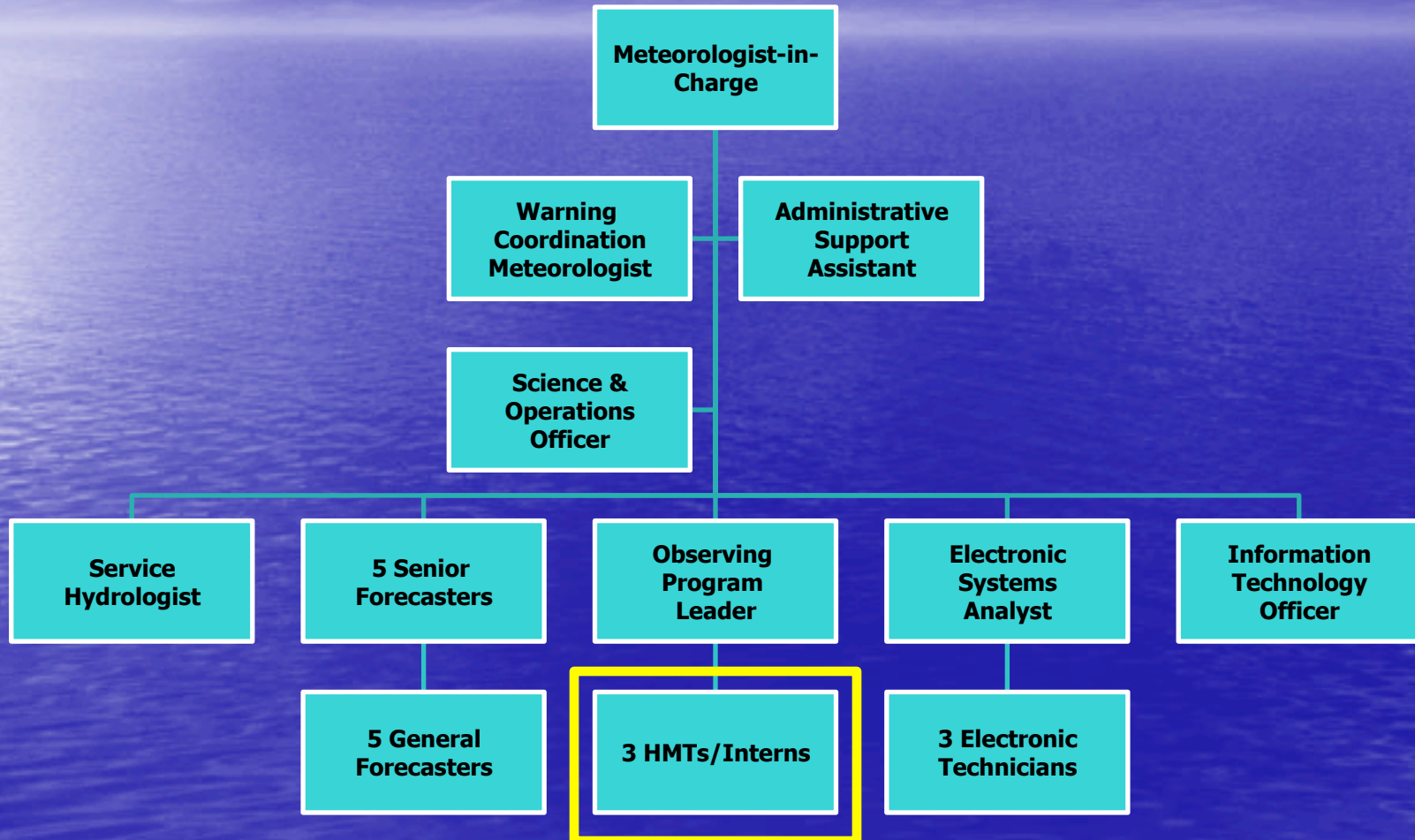
## WFOs Transitioning to IDSS – Impact-Based Decision Support Services

- IDSS – Connecting our forecasts and warnings to decision-makers on the local, state, and federal levels to save lives and property
- Examples:
  - NWS meteorologists embedded with local/state emergency managers
  - Working with our partners to determine their weather-related needs and thresholds





# National Weather Service Forecast Office Structure

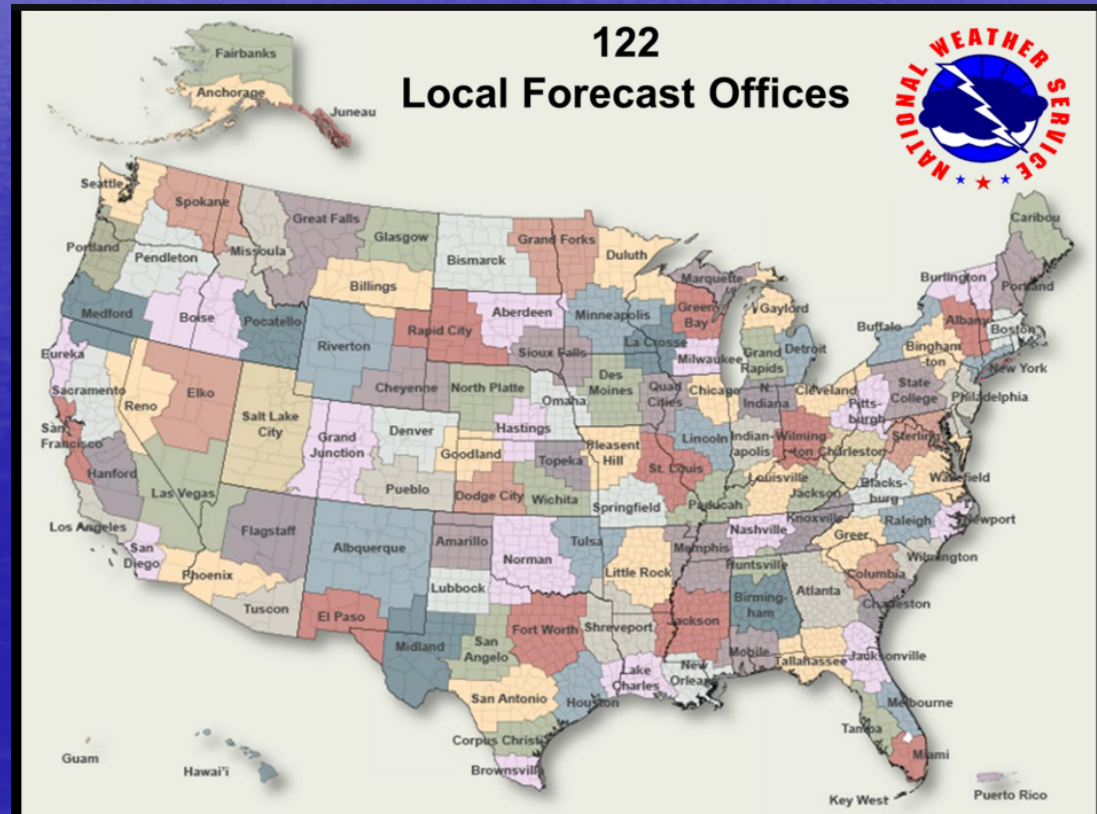






# Other Considerations

- Rotating shift work
- Quiet vs. Active weather
- Supply vs. demand
- Moving around



# Tips for Employment

- Experience – NWS Internships, Pathways, Private Sector
- Advanced degree – research/teaching experience
- Extra coursework – GIS, Communications, Social Media, Emergency Management
- Get yourself a good recommendation
- Don't be afraid to fail
- Job postings: USAJobs.gov







# Contact

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