



# THE ATMOSPHERIC RESERVOIR

*Examining the Atmosphere and Atmospheric Resource Management*

## Staking A Research Claim



**CRCS**  
Center for Regional  
Climate Studies

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Last year, the ND Atmospheric Resource Board (NDARB) joined an advisory board of stakeholders for the Center for Regional Climate Studies (CRCS). The advisory board was formed in order to provide CRCS with guidance for their research and funding efforts. Besides the NDARB, there are nine other members of this advisory committee including ND Natural Resources Conservation Service, Northern Canola Growers Association, National Weather Service, City of Grand Forks, Sitting Bull College, Lovas Consulting LLC, Monsanto, United States Durum Growers Association, and North Dakota Farmers Union.

CRCS is a multi-institution collaborative center funded by the Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR) at the National Science Foundation (NSF). This program enhances research competitiveness and infrastructure in states (such as North Dakota) that traditionally receive less research dollars than other parts of the country. The center is primarily led by North Dakota State University (NDSU) and the University of North Dakota (UND), but contributing researchers extend across a number of undergraduate and tribal institutions in the state. Researchers perform interdisciplinary studies that cross the fields of weather/climate, agriculture, hydrology, and biology. Example studies include investigations of Devils Lake water quality, changes in severe weather patterns in the region, and physical/economic crop modeling to improve yield predictions.

Collaborations such as the CRCS stakeholder advisory committee are important to the scientific community because they bring researchers and resources together

and allow sharing of data and knowledge. Aaron Kennedy, a UND researcher and co-lead of the center says: "As a researcher, we can often get bogged down in the theoretical aspects of research, but it's important to never lose sight of the application side of our work. NDARB and the other groups on the board serve as boots on the ground that keep us in tune with the region's research needs. Besides providing feedback on work, the involved groups also contribute data which can enhance our current projects."

The CRCS stakeholder advisory committee is invited to monthly meetings and each one is an opportunity for new research ideas to be presented to a diverse group of organizations that may have interest in the end results or findings. Because university students make up such a large portion of the research community, stakeholder meetings provide them with a forum where they receive feedback and directive focus for their studies. Kennedy, an assistant professor at UND, works with dozens of undergraduate and graduate students on everything from their senior research projects to their master's thesis, so he sees the value of CRCS in helping students obtain future careers. In Kennedy's example, CRCS has helped fund four of his students during their graduate degrees. He commented that, "Exposure to additional groups such as the stakeholders helps (students) hone their communication skills as they need to be able to explain their research to a wide variety of audiences. It also helps them understand the big picture and how their research is interconnected to various fields. In the end, it builds skills that will benefit them from the interview process to eventual employment."

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