



National Weather Service: Building a Weather, Water, and Climate Ready Nation

March 25th from 2:30pm-3:30pm ET

Presented by: **Mary C. Erickson**, Acting Assistant Administrator for Weather Services, NOAA, and Acting Director of the National Weather Service

Presentation Abstract: The National Weather Service (NWS) continues to enjoy our collaboration with IAEM and our collective efforts to build a Weather Ready Nation in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic and the increasing number of extreme weather, water, and climate events. The NWS remains focused on strengthening our robust dissemination infrastructure, which serves as the backbone of our forecasts and service delivery, and ensuring equity in our services and service delivery to better reach historically underserved and socially vulnerable communities. The effort to transform the way people receive, understand, and act on information is one that spans the entire Weather, Water, and Climate Enterprise and cannot be accomplished without the trusted relationships that have been established therein. As such, the NWS remains dedicated to galvanizing our relationships, not only with the Emergency Management community but with government, private, and academic entities across the entire Enterprise. In this presentation, we will discuss how the priorities laid out above are helping to guide the future direction of the NWS and the Enterprise as a whole, to

ensure all communities are ready, responsive, and resilient to the impacts of extreme weather, water, and climate events.

Speaker Bio: Mary C. Erickson is NOAA's Acting Assistant Administrator for Weather Services and the Acting Director of the National Weather Service (NWS). She served as the NWS Deputy Director from January 2017 to January of 2022. As Acting NWS Director, Ms. Erickson is responsible for the overall leadership of the NWS, and ensuring the day-to-day civilian weather operations for the United States, its territories, adjacent waters and ocean areas. Strategic areas of focus include transforming the way Americans receive, understand, and act upon NWS information; ensuring NWS decision support services are equitably delivered across all communities, and advancing partnerships across the weather enterprise to reduce the impacts of extreme weather, water and climate events. She also oversees advances to strengthen the NWS scientific, forecast and dissemination infrastructure, and champions efforts to support NWS employees in a diverse, equitable, inclusive and accessible workplace.

Ms. Erickson has served in various roles across NOAA for more than 35 years. From 2005 - 2016, Ms. Erickson served in NOAA's National Ocean Service as the Director of the National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science ensuring the timely and effective transition of ecosystem science solutions from research and development to operations and applications. Prior to that, she served as chief of NOAA's Coast Survey Development Laboratory where she and her team developed ocean technology to support safe and efficient navigation and sustainable, healthy coasts.

Ms. Erickson began her federal career at the National Weather Service, having worked as a research meteorologist for more than 20 years in the Office of Science and Technology. Her early work and publications centered on statistical techniques and model post-processing within the Meteorological Development Laboratory. Later, she managed a wide portfolio of science projects, serving as deputy of the cross-NOAA strategic goal team for weather and water.

Ms. Erickson earned a B.S. degree in Meteorology from Pennsylvania State University (1983) and an M.S. degree in Operations Research and Statistics from George Mason University (1990). An avid reader and life-long learner, she enjoys serving as a professional mentor to benefit future science leaders. Ms. Erickson is a native of Whitesboro NY, but she has called Brandywine, MD home for the last 30 years.