AASC
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF STATE CLIMATOLOGISTS

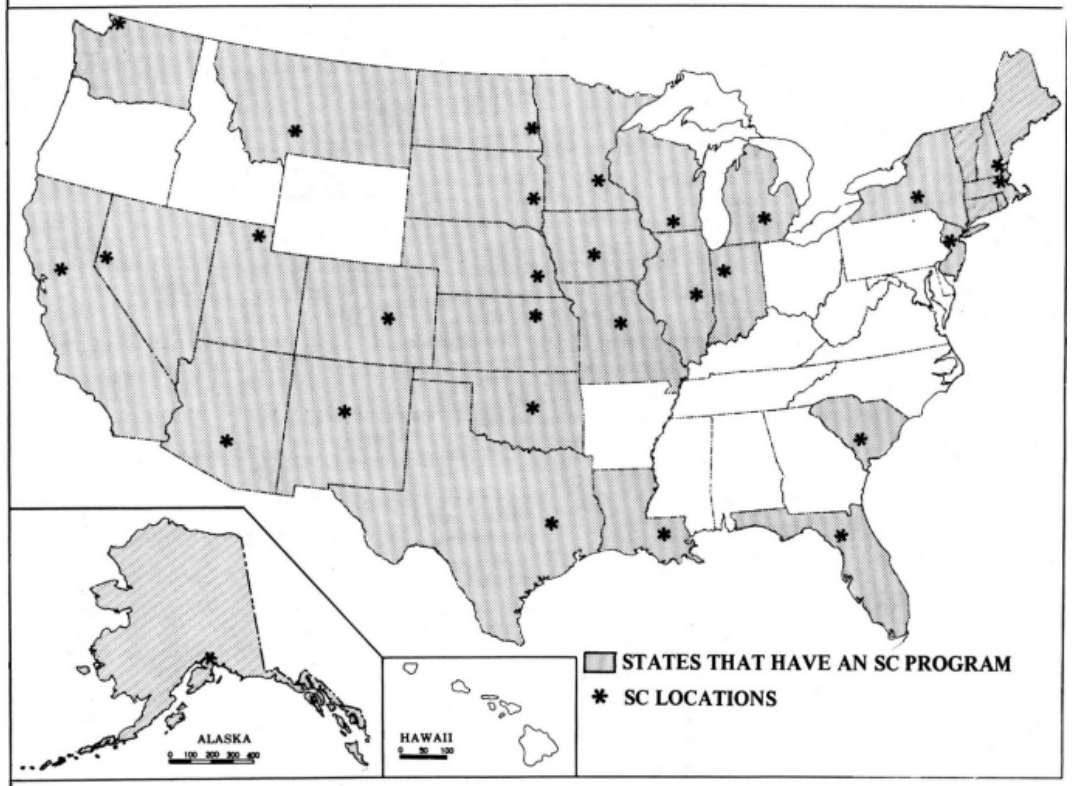
Celebrating 50 Years NOAA and State Climatologists Partnership

A Critical Part of the Climate Services Partnership

Hope Mizzell, Ph.D.
South Carolina State Climatologist
Past President of the AASC

THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF STATE CLIMATOLOGISTS

NEWS LETTER



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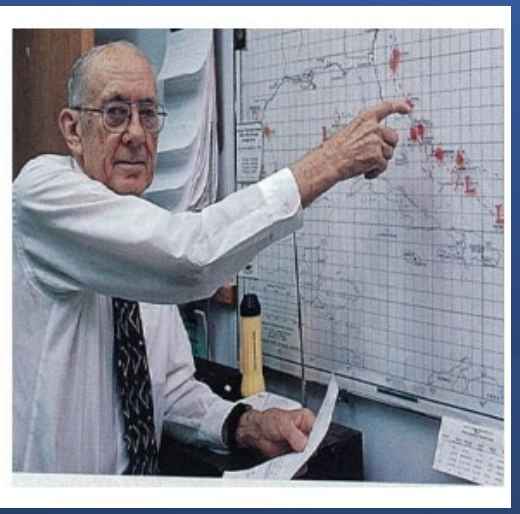
The initial program of "state climatologists" was established in the mid-1950's as a new effort of the U. S. Weather Bureau. Dr. Helmut Landsberg, then Head of the Climatology Program of the Weather Bureau, created the program. It led to the establishment of a climatologist in each state, typically located at a major state university. The mission was to serve in a climate data and information role within the state. The state climatologist was a federal employee who typically developed a variety of modes of operation, often closely interacting with university scientists. Unfortunately, programs in most states were insufficiently supported to allow development of a major service-oriented effort.

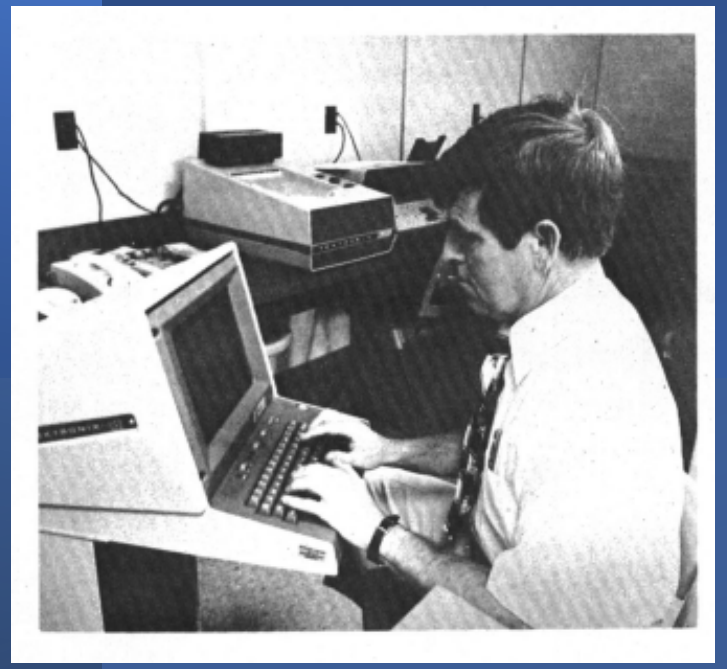
In 1973, NOAA chose to dissolve the state climatologist program as a part of a NWS program revision (Hull, 1974). The disappearance of this small but valuable in-state data management and service activity left a serious gap in the chain which made climatic data available to many users.

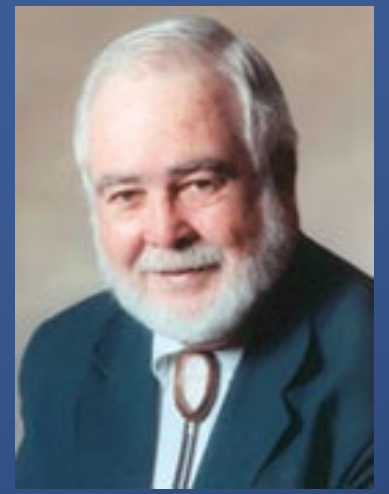
The disappearance of the federal program led several states to initiate similar activites. The state-supported climatological activities were encouraged by the Environmental Data Service (now EDIS) of NOAA who developed arrangements to assist and cooperate with the new state-supported climatologists. Copies of NOAA data and publications were provided at no cost, and varying degrees of cooperation were developed, depending upon the state effort. In a few states, persons who had served as federally employed state climatologists actually resigned as NOAA employees and became state employees.

By 1974, there were 32 states supporting a state climatologist. There was a growing awareness within EDS (now EDIS) that it was beneficial to have state climatologists as a vital link in a national data and information dissemination program. The NCC sponsored informational meetings in Asheville, NC in 1975 and 1976 for these state-supported climatologists, and EDS initiated a quarterly publication to aid the communication between SC's and between SC's and EDS.

At the 1976 meeting in Asheville, the concept of the AASC was developed. The 16 state climatologists at the meeting recognized that a scientific association would provide a more structured mechanism for interaction between state climatologists. Arlo Richardson, State Climatologist of Utah, was selected as president for 1976 - 1977.







State Climate Offices

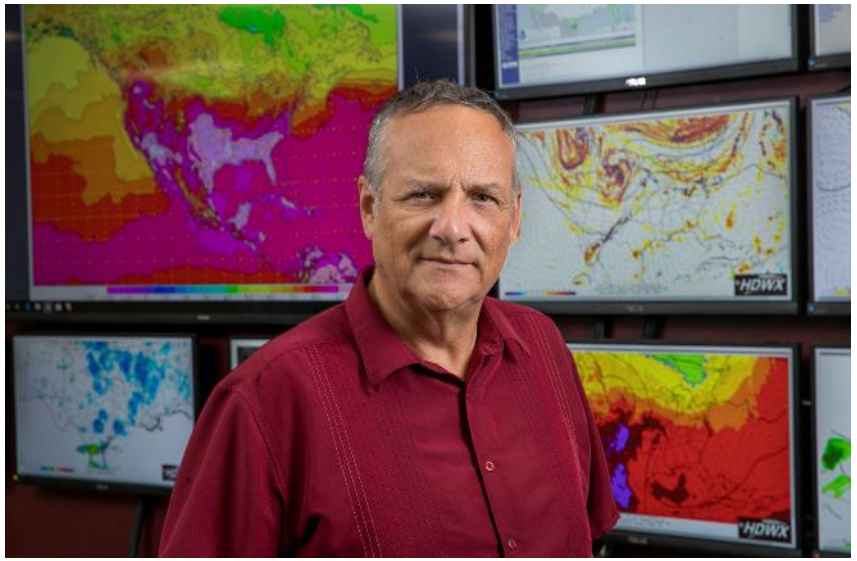
- The recognized expert on state's climate and climate services
- Appointed by a state entity and officially recognized by NCEI Director as SC
- Wide variety of State Climate Offices
  - Some are one-deep positions, others fully staffed offices
  - Many are located within Universities and the SC is also a faculty member; others under a state agency, such as the Department of Natural Resources
- ARSCO (AASC-Recognized SCO) – a certification recognizing an exceptional degree of climate service

State Climatologists

- **The** subject matter expert on their state's climate
- Forged longstanding relationships with wide spectrum of stakeholders
- Lead or coordinate reporting on climate conditions to regional & federal partners
- Coordinate with or serve as part of their state's emergency operations for events
- Many operate climate monitoring networks
- Conduct research on climate issues of concern to their state
- Produce reports on local climate conditions & outlooks
- Conduct outreach & education (in person, media, websites, social media)

American Association of State Climatologists

- A non-profit professional scientific organization, established 1976
- Members include: SCs, RCCs & staffs, Federal partners, private sector & students
- Advances development & delivery of science-based climate products & services
- Facilitates interaction & collaboration among climate service providers
- Helps build & sustain effective state climate offices
- Champions in-situ climate monitoring networks
- Encourages timely communication of climate information
- Promotes outreach to increase climate literacy among stakeholders & the general public



Current President: John Nielsen-Gammon, Ph.D.

www.stateclimate.org

Examples of NOAA Partnership

NCEI User Engagement / Impact Studies

In-depth studies of the impact of SCO, RCC, and NCEI products and services within their state

-SCO support to state government entities, municipalities, agricultural extension, private sector, or other stakeholders, and the impact products, information, research and/or decision support provided

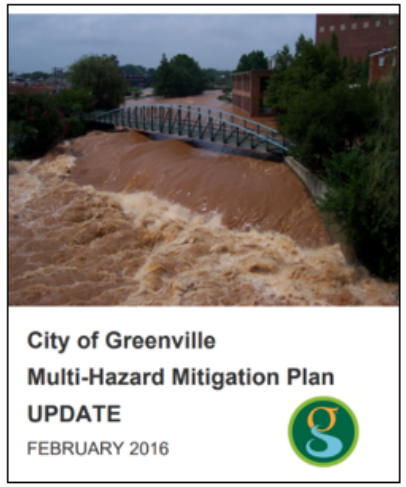
(2023 – Arizona, Hawaii, Vermont)

Overview of the South Carolina State Climatology Office's (SCSCO) Partnership with Emergency Managers

Climate Data and Emergency Management in South Carolina

Dealing with climate data and information is often outside of many Emergency Manager's comfort zone,' as it deals with understanding trends and variability and requires an in-depth analysis. Many local and rural county emergency management offices operate with one or two officials, putting a strain on the available resources to strengthen the adaptive capacity of their communities. However, one of their primary job functions as hazard planners is to consider the natural risks that face their communities and mitigate losses. Not all hazards are equal. Each hazard can cause different economic, infrastructure, and social impacts, depending on the region of the state.

Despite its small size, South Carolina boasts a diverse climate, mountains up to 3500 feet in the southern Appalachians, hundreds of miles of coastline, and four major



NCEI User Workshops

State level engagement with customers to further promote SCO, RCC, and NCEI products and services and collect customer use cases and requirements

(2023- Colorado, South Dakota)

Looking to the future

- Involve State Climate Offices from the beginning
  - Development, Messaging, Target Audiences, Avoid Duplication
- Delivery: SCO can get the forecast/data/tools the last mile to the end user
- SCO are taking action to increase participation in climate science by populations historically excluded and under-included

- Hope Mizzell | 803-734-9568| www.stateclimate.org