

NOAA Satellite and Information Service - Trip Report
The 14th Annual NOAA-CREST Day
New York, New York
April 14, 2015

Host of the Conference: City University of New York (Bronx Community College, Lehman, Hunter, LaGuardia Community Colleges, New York Tech, Medgar Evers Community College, Queens Community College, and the Borough of Manhattan Community College)

Audience: High Students, Undergraduates, Masters and Post-Doctoral students from City Colleges (all over the city), and professors from the Center.

Introduction: NOAA-CREST started in 2001 and is funded via the NOAA Educational Partnership Program. CUNY operates as the lead Center, and the other participating institutions are Hampton University, University of Puerto Rico at Mayaguez, California State University-Los Angeles, and University of Maryland Baltimore County. The science and research happening at the Centers are aligned with NOAA's Strategic Plan themes (Climate, Weather and Atmosphere, Land Processes and Water Resources, and Coastal and Ocean Waters). The impact of CREST extends to over 450 underrepresented graduates in NOAA-related sciences, over 300 peer-reviewed journal papers, over 400 technical presentations in national and international conferences, and over 300 invited seminars. In addition, more than 200 research projects are being collaborated with scientists and engineers and 9 CREST students are currently employed at NOAA.

Summary and Recommendations: CREST Day is the most important recruitment and outreach event for the Center. This year, approximately 300 people attended what was a highly successful event. The presentations and poster sessions illustrated the development of a diverse community of scientists and students promoting satellites, satellite remote sensing, and STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) careers. The Center is building a sustainable community of diverse students in education and research, by increasing the numbers of highly trained graduates in NOAA sciences. To have alumni such as Martin Yapur, Director of TIPO, return to the Center to present and tell his story was awesome. To have the Dr. Volz present and then communicate with both students and scientists about their individual research projects and new opportunities/technologies with the satellite systems, data management, and projected workforce was timely.

The presenters and presentations were engaging. Dr, Reza Klahanbilvardi, Director of the Center, specifically, provided an excellent overview of the Center's science, research, program funding, students, and community outreach activities. Though, I did notice no scientists or senior managers from STAR attended the event.

Through engaging activities, presentations, tours of the facility, and networking meetings, I feel the attendees learned a lot about satellites, various products, research efforts, and opportunities at NOAA (a science-based agency) and CREST. NESDIS should continue attending and participating to ensure this event remains successful. A site visit to the Cooperative Institutes or webinar would be nice.

My role was to attend the event, staff Dr. Volz, and serve as a subject matter expert in STEM education. Thank you to the NESDIS management for giving me the opportunity to attend.