



Innovations in Weather Forecasting for a Changing Climate

Speaker Bios



Michelle Mainelli

Deputy Director, NOAA's National Weather Service

Michelle Mainelli is the deputy director of the National Weather Service (NWS) and has served in various roles throughout the NWS for more than 30 years. Mainelli has served in various positions, including as a forecaster and hurricane specialist at the National Hurricane Center; as a software development team lead, branch chief, and deputy director of the National Centers for Environmental Prediction Central Operations; and as the director of the Office of Dissemination. She has over 15 years of operational forecasting experience in general, marine, and tropical cyclone forecasting. Mainelli holds a bachelor of science in meteorology from St. Louis University, a master of science in meteorology and physical oceanography from the University of Miami, and an MBA in technology management from the University of Phoenix.



Thomas Cavett

VP of Government Affairs and Strategy, Tomorrow.io

Thomas Cavett is vice president of government affairs and strategy at Tomorrow.io, where he's worked for three years. Cavett is a former strategy consultant at McKinsey & Company where he worked across a variety of industries, including medical device manufacturing, mining, cybersecurity, private equity, and advanced industrial services.



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Pierre Gentine
Maurice Ewing and J. Lamar Worzel Professor of Geophysics and Professor of Earth and Environmental Sciences, Columbia University; Director, National Science Foundation Learning the Earth with Artificial intelligence and Physics (LEAP)

Pierre Gentine joined the faculty of the Department of Applied Mathematics and Applied Physics at Columbia Engineering in 2010. He investigates the continental hydrologic cycle in the context of rising CO₂ concentrations using multi-scale modeling and big data (machine learning, remote sensing, high-resolution turbulent simulations).



Dan Stillman
Co-Founder and Meteorologist, Washington Post's Capital Weather Gang

Dan Stillman is a meteorologist and editor for the Capital Weather Gang, covering the weather, climate, and environment for the *Washington Post*. He has more than 20 years of forecasting, communications, and marketing experience in the weather and climate industry. He earned an M.S. in meteorology from Texas A&M University, and a B.S. in atmospheric, oceanic and space sciences from the University of Michigan.



Kaitlyn McGrath
Meteorologist, WUSA9 (CBS)

Kaitlyn McGrath is an Emmy Award-winning meteorologist for WUSA9. McGrath blends her scientific knowledge and communication skills to inform communities about the impacts of climate change on their daily lives, from unprecedented weather events to long-term environmental shifts. She takes pride in her ability to translate complex scientific concepts into accessible information and empowers viewers to make informed decisions about their own impacts on the environment. McGrath began her broadcast career at WCSC-TV in Charleston, South Carolina, and prior to joining WUSA9, worked at the NBC affiliate in Hartford, Connecticut.