NCAS-M, research enterprise led by Howard University, is funded by the Educational Partnership Program with Minority-Serving Institutions Cooperative Agreement #NA16SEC4810006. The newly-funded NOAA Cooperative Science Center (CSC) is aligned principally with the NOAA’s National Weather Service. NCAS-M also pursues collaborative research across other NOAA line offices with particular emphasis on education and training partnerships with OAR and NESDIS. NCAS-M is comprised of 12 partnering academic institutions: Fort Valley State University, Jackson State University, Pennsylvania State University, San Diego State University, San Jose State University, State University of New York – Albany, University of Maryland - Baltimore County, University of Maryland - College Park, University of Puerto Rico - Mayagüez, University of Texas - El Paso, Universidad Metropolitana, and Tuskegee University. These institutions represent a unique niche within the academic community that combines research-intensive institutions, advanced education, collaborative research training, and capacity-building across all of the campuses in NOAA mission-relevant disciplines.

The mission of NCAS-M is to increase the number of workforce-ready graduates from underrepresented communities in NOAA-related sciences, to support NOAA, other Federal agencies, academic institutions, and the private sector. NCAS-M is guided by the philosophy of research as education. In pursuit of this, the Center collaborates with NOAA and NOAA stakeholder in support of this mission in three thematic areas:

1. Interdisciplinary scientific research for building resilient communities against weather extremes;
2. Innovative observations for advancing the analysis and prediction of weather, climate, and atmospheric chemistry; and
3. Interdisciplinary research in support of building healthy communities.

NCAS-M draws on the talents of its faculty and students, NOAA employees, and other federal and private sector partnerships to address current and future challenges to improving NOAA NWS products and services. The Center will further build on a proven history of success that includes: (1) diversifying the nation’s workforce in atmospheric science and meteorology with the production of over 40 PhDs in atmospheric sciences over the past decade; (2) making significant contributions to NWS research and operations; and (3) engaging in emerging areas of research germane to NOAA’s mission (e.g. social and behavioral science and implementation of emerging observational technologies).

All NCAS-M academic partners contribute to a rich spectrum of student education, training, and professional development through workshops and webinars, shared courses and seminars, outreach activities, student recruitment, and mentoring.

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