

# NWS Brownsville/Rio Grande Valley In Your Neighborhood...and Beyond!



*Above:* Senior Forecaster and Hydrology Program Manager Mike Castillo (left) and Forecaster/Hydrology Program Assistant Maria Torres staff booth at the annual Rio Grande Regional Water Authority/Rio Grande Valley Water Summit on December 5, 2014.

## November 2014

November 1: Forecaster and Spanish Language Liaison *Maria Torres* and Hydrometeorological Technician *Sam Martinez* attended the **Radio Esperanza Health Fair** in McAllen.

November 3, 10, 17, and 24: Warning Coordination Meteorologist *Barry Goldsmith* and Meteorologist *Erin Billings* participated by e-mail, phone, or both, in the **Weekly Texas Drought Monitor Telecon.**

November 6: Senior Forecaster *Mike Castillo* and Information Technology Officer *Pablo Gonzalez* attended the **Cummings Middle School Career Fair** in Brownsville. Presentations of

about 30 minutes each were given to 5 groups of 20 to 25 students each. The presentations touched on careers in the National Weather Service in meteorology and information technology, as well as the importance of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) education.

November 6: *Barry Goldsmith* attended the monthly meeting of the **Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council's Homeland Security Advisory Committee** in Weslaco and provided an abbreviated status report from NWS Brownsville/Rio Grande Valley.

November 7: Meteorologist-in-Charge *Steve Drillette* provided a presentation and *Mike Castillo* gave a tour of the office to a group of 10 cadets from a flight class at the **Marine Military Academy** in Harlingen.

November 11: Meteorologist-in-Charge *Steve Drillette* attended the **Brownsville Economic Roundtable Discussion with Governor-Elect Greg Abbott** along with local and state elected officials. Approximately 60 individuals were in attendance.

November 12: *Mike Castillo* attended the **Texas Floodplain Management Association Meeting** in Austin.

*Barry Goldsmith* participated in the **Valley Hurricane Study Kick-off Meeting** held by the United States Army Corps of Engineers. The intent of the teleconference meeting was to review the planned objectives toward completing the task of the next Rio Grande Valley Hurricane Evacuation Study.

November 13: *Steve Drillette* attended the **Brownsville Chamber of Commerce "Chairman's Chat."** The program was a panel discussion led by United Brownsville on the economic challenges and future of the RGV. The panel included United Brownsville Chairman, State Rep. Eddie Lucio III, Brownsville ISD superintendent, Brownsville Economic Development Council Chairman, and the Brownsville Chamber Executive Director. Approximately 25 individuals were in attendance.

November 14: *Erin Billings* and *Pablo Gonzalez* attended the **Breedan Elementary Career Day** in Brownsville. Presentations of 10 minutes were given to approximately 10 groups of 10 students on various careers in the NWS in the meteorology and information technology fields and the importance of STEM education.

November 16, 17, 18, and 19: *Barry Goldsmith* attended the **2014 IAEM Annual Conference** in San Antonio, TX. He assisted WFO San Antonio and NWS Headquarters in answering questions at the NWS booth in the exhibit hall.

November 17: *Steve Drillette*, along with nearly 20 NWS representatives from the NWS Austin-San Antonio and surrounding offices met for a **meeting with NWS Director Dr. Louis Uccellini at the WFO EWX** office, followed by dinner at a nearby restaurant.

November 20: *Steve Drillette* attended the **Brownsville Economic Development Corporation's Leadership in Economic Development Award Reception**. Texas Speaker of the House, Joe Strauss received the honor. MIC Steve Drillette met the Speaker and visited with numerous other elected officials and dignitaries.

November 21: *Erin Billings* and *Barry Goldsmith* staffed a booth at the **RGV Arc User Group GIS Day** in McAllen. Barry gave a presentation on GIS in the NWS to around 40 attendees.

November 25: Meteorologist *Chris Birchfield* and *Sam Martinez* attended the **Los Fresnos "College, Career and Electives Fair."** They staffed a booth and spoke with students about the various career options in the NWS and the education needed.

## December 2014

December 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29: Warning Coordination Meteorologist *Barry Goldsmith* and Meteorologist *Erin Billings* participated by e-mail, phone, or both, in the **Weekly Texas Drought Monitor Telecon.**

December 3: Forecaster *Maria Torres* and Information Technology Officer *Pablo Gonzalez* attended **Ortiz Elementary Career Day in Brownsville.** They spoke to around 300 4<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> graders about meteorology, computer science, rip currents, and the importance of math and science.

December 5: Senior Forecaster *Mike Castillo*, *Maria Torres*, and *Barry Goldsmith* attended and staffed a booth at the **Rio Grande Valley Annual Water Summit** in Harlingen.

December 10: *Barry Goldsmith* provided an **office tour to the Leadership Laguna Madre class.** Twelve people attended the tour from Port Isabel, Laguna Vista, and South Padre Island.

December 11: *Maria Torres* provided an **interview to Radio Esperanza** on winter weather awareness.

Meteorologist-in-Charge *Steve Drillette* and Science Operations Officer *Doug Butts* provided an **office tour to the Leadership Brownsville class.** 18 people attended the tour in the morning and several returned for the afternoon upper air release.

December 12: *Pablo Gonzalez* and *Barry Goldsmith* attended the **Domingo Trevino Middle School 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Career Fair in Mission.** They spoke to around 250 students about the importance of science and math, the NWS and rewarded students who successfully answered math puzzles.

*Barry Goldsmith* attended the **Valley Study Area: Hurricane Evacuation Study: Evacuation Zone Deployment, and Transportation Analysis.** Members from the US Army Corps of Engineers, Texas A&M Transportation Institute, Texas A&M Hazard Reduction and Recovery Center, and FEMA attended the meeting at the Brownsville Central Public Library.

December 15: *Barry Goldsmith* met with the three members of the **South Texas Red Cross** in Harlingen to discuss a scenario for disaster readiness for hurricanes and flooding and capacity framework to meet the needs. Discussions will continue into 2015 or formalizing shelter readiness away from storm surge zones within the Rio Grande Valley

December 27-30: *Barry Goldsmith* taught a Merit Badge (Weather) class at the Rio Grande Council **Boy Scout Winter Camp** at Camp Perry in Rio Hondo. He taught four one and one-half hour classes to eighteen scouts ranging in age from 10 to 15 years old. Topics included basic meteorological concepts (temperature, pressure, wind, fronts), hazardous weather events, awareness/preparedness, and safety, the water cycle, and climate change.