

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



Mike Castillo describes the NWS regions to some of the 86 students (and their teachers) from Canales Elementary School in Brownsville who toured the office.



Figure 1. Nat Flores (Cameron County Emergency Planner), Graciela Echevarria (bilingual translator for KRGV Channel 5 News), Maria Torres, and Mike Castillo at the First Faith-Based Integrated Weather Team Meeting in Edinburg on May 18, 2016.

## May 2016

**May 2:** Senior Meteorologist *Tim Speece* provided an **office tour** and presentation to the CERT class from Hanna High School in Brownsville.

**May 9:** Meteorologist *Maria Torres* gave an **interview** on the severe weather threat for the southern plains and hurricane preparedness to **Radio Centro Mexico**.

**May 9 and 16:** Warning Coordination Meteorologist *Barry Goldsmith* and Observation Program Leader *Erin Billings* participated by email, phone, or both, in the **Weekly Texas Drought Monitor Telecon**.

**May 11:** *Maria Torres* gave a **hurricane preparedness presentation** to 55 parents at the **Raul Yzaguirre Head Start** in Brownsville.

**May 12:** Information Technology Officer *Pablo Gonzalez* gave a **hurricane preparedness presentation** to 50 parents at the **Lena Bennett Head Start** in Brownsville.

**May 13:** Science and Operations Officer *Josh Schroeder* participated in the **Palmer Lasko Elementary School Career Day** in Los Fresnos. Josh spoke to approximately 250 students about careers in the National Weather Service.

--*Pablo Gonzalez* gave three presentations on various careers in the National Weather Service to approximately 75 students at the **R.L. Martin Elementary Career Day** in Brownsville.

--Meteorologist *Jason Straub*, Senior Meteorologists *Mike Castillo* and *Tim Speece*, and *Barry Goldsmith* filmed **promotional spots** with Robert Bettes of **KVEO Channel 23** to advertise flood safety and hurricane preparedness.

**May 16:** *Barry Goldsmith* assisted NWS Austin/San Antonio with the **2016 Hurricane Awareness** Tour by driving the shuttle van for Aircraft Operations Center staff and SR staff, serving as a tour monitor for the North East ISD, and provided various other tour assistance from aircraft to the hangar.

**May 17:** Senior Meteorologists *Geoff Bogorad* and *Mike Castillo*, Meteorologist *Maria Torres*, and *Erin Billings* provided a presentation and an **office tour** to 86 students from Canales Elementary in Brownsville.

**May 18:** *Maria Torres*, *Mike Castillo*, *Pablo Gonzalez*, and *Barry Goldsmith* participated in the **First RGV Faith-Based Integrated Weather Team** meeting at Radio Esperanza in Edinburg. This meeting brought together 59 individuals from churches and other faith-based organizations on both sides of the border, as well as the American Red Cross, LRGVDC, KRGV, UT-RGV Disasters Studies Program, and EM staff from various local entities.

**May 19:** *Josh Schroeder* and *Pablo Gonzalez* provided a 15 minute presentation on hurricane related issues to approximately 70 attendees and staffed a booth at the hurricane preparedness event at the **Bob Clark Social Service Center** in Brownsville.

**May 20:** Electronics Systems Analyst *Paul Schaafsma* and *Pablo Gonzalez* conducted a practice DSS Deployment Package deployment. The goal was to test the NWS DSS Deployment package at our Alternate Office Location (AOL), located at the **Texas Department of Public Safety Regional Headquarters in Weslaco Texas**, in preparation for the Texas AirEvac Texas Exercise scheduled in June and to support DSS mission during a live event.

While at site, Paul and Pablo got a chance to talk to EM and law enforcement officers concerning the services that National Weather Service Brownsville/RGV provides the community.

**May 23:** *Barry Goldsmith* provided an **interview** to Samara Cokinos for the **KRGV Channel 5** annual hurricane special. Barry spoke about hurricane preparedness and promoted #hurricanestrong.

**May 24:** Meteorologist-in-Charge *Jim Reynolds* spoke at the **TxDOT Hurricane Workshop** in Pharr to 50 individuals on the 2016 Atlantic hurricane season and prior impacting storms in Texas and the RGV that occurred following a moderate to strong El Nino.

**May 25:** *Jim Reynolds, Maria Torres, and Barry Goldsmith* presented at the **6<sup>th</sup> Annual RGV EM Partners Hurricane Meeting** in Weslaco. Nearly 100 representatives from emergency management, including USCBP, state and local EM reps, public health, education, TxDOT, US State Department, and more attended the annual event, which included talks on the 2015 and upcoming 2016 season, a discussion on NHC/WFO 2016 products and services, Spanish language services and faith-based IWT, social media, and breakouts for lunch attendees to discuss how they would plan for specific wind, storm surge, and rainfall flooding forecasts.

**May 26:** *Jim Reynolds, Maria Torres, and Barry Goldsmith* presented at the **3<sup>rd</sup> Annual RGV Media Partners Hurricane Meeting** in Weslaco. 18 RGV media representatives attended the annual event, including those from Telemundo, Televisa Noreste (Mexico), KGBT, KVEO, KRGV, as well as El Nuevo Herald. The workshop included talks on the 2015 and upcoming 2016 season, a discussion on NHC/WFO 2016 products and services, Spanish language services and faith-based IWT, social media, and a discussion session on how to focus beyond the category and communicate potential impacts from wind, surge, and rainfall flooding.

*Mike Castillo and Barry Goldsmith* staffed a booth at the **City of Brownville's 2016 Hurricane Fair**. *Maria Torres* provided a bilingual presentation on hurricane preparedness to a standing-room-only crowd of more than 100.

**May 27:** *Barry Goldsmith* gave a presentation on the 2015 hurricane season, the 2016 seasonal forecast, and the importance of preparing in any season to the Harlingen EMS and others at the **South Texas Emergency Care Foundation** for their annual **Hurricane Evacuation Coordination Meeting**. Approximately 40 individuals were in attendance.

**May 31:** *Barry Goldsmith* spoke at the **Disaster District Committee 21 Meeting** in Weslaco on the 2016 Hurricane Season and what it means for preparedness in the Valley, as well as the NWS Brownsville/state plans for weather information during the AirEvac Exercise June 2 to 9.