University of Arizona

UCAR Membership Report on 2009 Membership Renewal

The University of Arizona was a founding member of UCAR in 1959. The Department of Atmospheric Sciences offers undergraduate courses and a graduate program leading to Masters and Ph.D. Recently two new programs have been added: the accelerated Masters program in physics and atmospheric science and the hydrometeorology graduate program. Currently there are 15 Masters and 11 Doctoral students. Since 2004, 17 Masters of Science and 8 Doctor of Philosophy degrees have been awarded in Atmospheric Sciences.

Funded research is conducted though the Institute of Atmospheric Physics (IAP) in areas including Atmospheric Chemistry, Climate and Global Change, Lighting and Atmospheric Electricity, Radiation and Remote Sensing, Tropical Meteorology and Weather Analysis and Predictability. The Institute maintains many special facilities for research including active and passive remote sensing equipment, a high altitude lab located at Mount Lemmon, and wet and dry chemical laboratories. The IAP has an ongoing program to produce real time operational weather forecasts that are used by the Salt River Project and the Flood Controls District of Maricopa County. The Aerosol-Cloud- Climate Interactions group is using a combination of cloud models and state-of –the-art aerosol measurements to further the understanding of Aerosol-cloud- climate interactions.

In addition to the facilities within the Institute of Atmospheric Physics, the Department of Atmospheric Sciences has a cooperative research agreement with the National Weather Service Office in Tucson and NASA Goddard Space Flight Center. The department, with funding from NSF, is building a prototype instrument of a new occultation observing system that will, for the first time, determine the atmospheric state independent of models. There are also research collaborations between the Department of Atmospheric Sciences and the Department of Hydrology and Water Resources, Applied Mathematics, and Electrical and Computing Engineering among others.

The Institute for Environment and Society houses research and teaching in the areas of global change and the environment.

Within the next calendar year, a new School of Earth and Environmental Sciences will be created to include the Department of Atmospheric Sciences; Geosciences; Hydrology and Water Resources; Lab for Tree-Ring research; Accelerator Mass Spectrometry Lab; and Soil, Water, and Environmental Sciences.

The Department of Atmospheric Sciences has participated in many UCAR programs and activities including serving on governance committees, participating in collaborative research activities and use of NCAR facilities.
The UCAR Membership Committee concluded that the criteria for membership is fulfilled, and recommends to the Members’ Representative that the membership of the University of Arizona be continued as stated in the bylaws.