

The Cooperative Institute for Mesoscale Meteorological Studies (CIMMS) at the University of Oklahoma is a joint research institute affiliated with the U.S. Department of Commerce's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). CIMMS supports scientists and graduate students who conduct research in hazardous weather, mesoscale meteorology, regional climate and related subject areas. The largest and second oldest research center at OU, CIMMS celebrated its 25th anniversary in November 2003.

CIMMS was established in 1978 through a memorandum of agreement between OU and NOAA. The joint institute's research expenditures totaled \$10.8 million in FY2002 and \$9.2 million in FY2003, which constituted 18.3 percent and 16.5 percent of the total research expenditures of the OU Norman Campus in those years.

Collaborative Research

CIMMS provides the vehicle by which about 190 faculty members, research scientists, visiting scholars, and graduate and undergraduate students, through collaborative research with NOAA scientists, contribute to the NOAA missions of providing accurate and timely forecasts and warnings of hazardous weather and regional climate variations.

CIMMS is an excellent example of a partnership that works. The Cooperative Institute is a lead contributor to NOAA's applied research mission that ultimately benefits every American. The research covers an impressive range - from developing weather radar for earlier detection of tornadoes, to monitoring changing climate, to understanding the socio-economic impacts of hazardous weather.

The mission of CIMMS is to act as a research interface between NOAA and the University and to assist in the transition of research products into operational procedures and techniques. CIMMS allows the partners to capitalize on the best attributes of each other. The institute provides a means to promote collaborative research on mesoscale meteorological and regional climate phenomena in a broad range of contexts, and especially to enhance the effectiveness of that research."

Research Partners

CIMMS now partners with units in three of NOAA's five line offices -- the Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR), the National Weather Service (NWS), and the National Environmental Satellite Data and Information Service (NESDIS). The NOAA units with which CIMMS has partnered most strongly in recent years are the OAR National Severe Storms Laboratory, NWS Warning Decision Training Branch, NWS Storm Prediction Center, NWS Radar Operations Center, NWS Forecast Office, all in Norman, Okla., as well as the NWS Southern Region Headquarters in Fort Worth, Texas, NESDIS National Climate Data Center in Asheville, N.C., NWS International Activities Office and OAR Office of Global Programs in Silver Spring, Md.

