

**Dr. Melissa A. Burt, Assistant Dean for Diversity and Inclusion
(Millersville Meteorology '05)**



After receiving my B.S. in Meteorology in 2005 from Millersville University, I started my graduate work in Atmospheric Science at Colorado State University (CSU). In 2008, I completed my M.S. degree and accepted a position at CSU with the National Science Foundation Science and Technology Center, CMMAP, the Center for Multiscale Modeling of Atmospheric Processes, as the Education and Diversity Manager.

In this role, I was working to enhance understanding of global climate through K-12, undergraduate, and graduate study as well as informal education to the broader public. I mostly focused on designing programs to encourage participation and increase access and retention for members of historically underrepresented groups. During this time, I had a tremendous track record of recruiting diverse students into a highly competitive, inclusive, and supportive Research Experience for Undergraduates Program at Colorado State University and supporting students as they matriculated into graduate school.

Besides the Education and Diversity position, I continued to conduct Arctic climate research which led me to entering the Ph.D. program in 2010. After completing my Ph.D. in 2016, I accepted a position as a Research Scientist where my research focused on the interactions of Arctic clouds, radiation, and sea ice. I also served as the Education and Diversity Manager in the College of Engineering and Department of Atmospheric Science at CSU.

As of August 2018, I am the Assistant Dean for Diversity and Inclusion in the Walter Scott Jr. College of Engineering. I lead the strategic planning and implementation efforts for diversity, inclusion and equity goals across the College, and has an active role in university-wide diversity and inclusion initiatives. In the Department of Atmospheric Science, I will continue to serve as the Director for the Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) program and support other diversity and inclusion efforts, including support of student recruiting.

Outside of CSU, I am the Vice-President for the non-profit organization, the Earth Science Women's Network (ESWN). ESWN is an international peer-mentoring network of women in the Earth Sciences, many of whom are in the early stages of their careers. Our mission is to promote career development, build community, provide opportunities for informal mentoring and support and facilitate professional collaborations.

It has also been extremely rewarding throughout my career being a member of the American Meteorological Society. I have had the opportunity to participate in leadership positions, Chair for the Board on Women in Minorities from 2014-2016, AMS Councilor, and was recently appointed the first chair of the Culture and Inclusion Cabinet.