

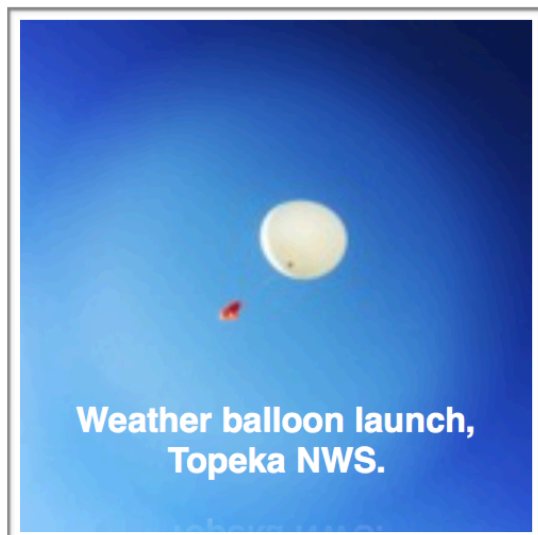
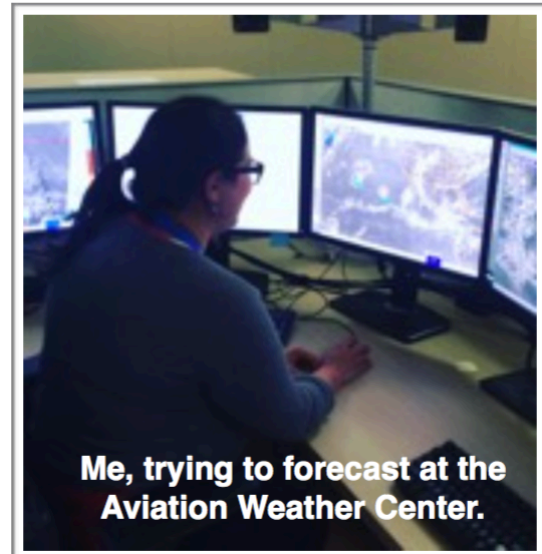


## **Project Atmosphere 2016**

Report by Canadian Participant Carrie Antoniazzi (Richmond, BC)

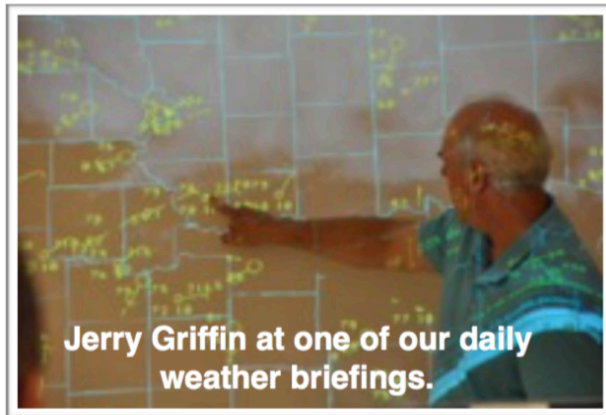
In April, I found out that I had been selected by the Canadian Meteorological and Oceanographic Society and Canadian Geographic Education as the Canadian participant at Project Atmosphere. Project Atmosphere is a Summer Teacher's Workshop offered by the American Meteorological Society at the National Weather Service Training Center in Kansas City, Missouri for K-to-12 teachers in the USA. For 2 weeks, 22 teachers from all over the US and I participated in professional development workshops designed for teaching atmospheric content.

The location for our workshop was the National Weather Service Training Center (NWSTC). Having the workshop in this meteorological training facility allowed us to have access to a large assortment of computerized weather information systems as well as see firsthand the equipment used in forecasting such as the Automated Surface Observing System (ASOS) and surface stations. The Aviation Weather Center, responsible for aviation forecasting, is also in the building, allowing us to see real-world applications of weather forecasting.



During the 2 weeks, we learned from experts in the field, were taught weather and climate concepts by professors, and were given modules to apply the knowledge in the classroom. Topics such as satellite and radar imagery interpretation, space weather, thunderstorms and severe storms, and weather forecasting were addressed by experts in their fields. One evening, we had a field trip to the National Weather Service (NWS) Topeka weather station to launch a weather balloon. It was a great learning experience, especially the next day when we were able to take the raw data collected by the balloon and analyze it. We were also fortunate enough to have Louis Uccellini, Director of the National Weather

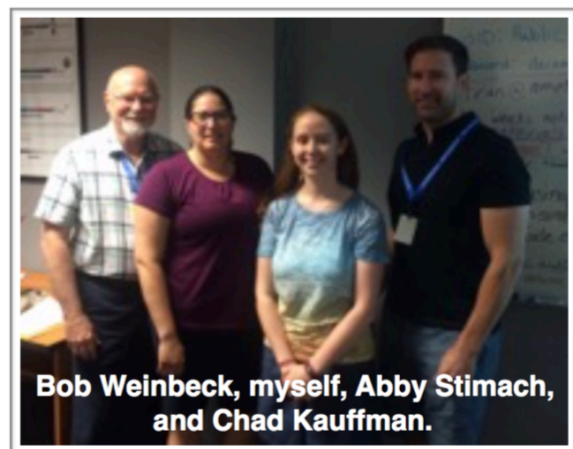
Service, speak to us about the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and a Weather-Ready Nation. Although all of the speakers were great, the highlights for me were presentations by Richard Knabb, Director of the National Hurricane Center, Miami, Florida, who spoke about the impact of social scientists, on how they now alert the public about hurricanes, and by Barbara Mayes Boustead, Climate program manager at NWS forecast office Nebraska, whose dissertation was on the historical accuracy of the weather in Laura Ingalls Wilder's book "The Long Winter".



Each day we had a weather briefing with Jerry Griffin, Master Instructor in the Forecast Operations Programs, at the NWSTC. During these briefings, we observed radar and satellite imagery and learned to interpret surface station data and 500-millibar charts. We also followed storm systems as they moved through the Pacific and explored many great online resources that we can use to forecast weather with our students.

Beyond the workshop, I really enjoyed learning more about the education system in the US. It was interesting to hear how different education can be, even between the states. With our transformation in education here in BC, it was great to share what we are doing here and to hear feedback from others. I also enjoyed having the weekend off between the two weeks to explore Kansas City. There are some great museums to visit, such as the National WWI Museum, and I went to my first ever baseball game!

As a district teacher mentor with the Conseil Scolaire Francophone de la Colombie-Britannique, I am looking forward to using the new skills and resources obtained during this workshop to create new professional development opportunities for teachers as well as better integrate atmospheric content into classroom projects I develop with teachers. The modules presented are engaging and meaningful activities that I will be able to share with teachers as well.



I would like to thank the workshop faculty for all their help over the two weeks. Abby Stimach, Jim Brey, Bob Weinbeck and Chad Kauffman did an amazing job of sharing their knowledge with us, keeping us organized and getting us ready to share what we've learned with other teachers. Also, thank you to Canadian Meteorological and Oceanographic Society and Canadian Geographic Education, the educational committee of The Royal Canadian Geographical Society, for continuing to support Canadian participation at these workshops.



**First Row:** Instructor - Bob Weinbeck; Instructor - Barbara Boustead; Michael Joyce; Joan Drew; NWS Director - Louis Uccellini; Julie Wight; Diane Ripollone; Helaine Hager; Instructor - Abby Stimach;  
**Second Row:** Kevin Mart; Karen Merritt; MaryJane Ziehl; Samantha Adams; Julianne Codd; Carrie Antoniazzi; Julia Schroeder; Nora Collazo  
**Standing Row:** George Nahay; Jared Foro; Brian Soash; William Donald; Sara Finnemore; Instructor - Jerry Griffin; Margaret Wylie; Barbara Stanoff; Nancy Hoehn; Instructor - Jim Brey; Amethyst Klein; Raymond Szczerba; Instructor - Chad Kauffman;  
**NWS - Chief Learning Officer - John Orgen**