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Stephan (Steve) Smith Named Director of the Meteorological Development Laboratory (MDL)

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 To: John Schattel - NOAA Federal <john.schattel@noaa.gov>

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Subject: Stephan (Steve) Smith Named Director of the Meteorological Development Laboratory (MDL)
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Request for Posting:	Ming Ji, Director Office of Science and Technology Integration (OSTI) National Weather Service
Subject Line:	Stephan (Steve) Smith Named Director of the Meteorological Development Laboratory (MDL)
Distribution:	NWS Managers



Colleagues,

I am proud to announce that **Stephan (Steve) Smith, Ph.D**, has been selected as the new Director of the NWS Office of Science and Technology Integration's (OSTI), Meteorological Development Laboratory (MDL), effective May 12. As its sole research and development laboratory, MDL plays a unique and critical role in the evolution of NWS' operations. Steve will be responsible for a large and varied portfolio of R&D projects supporting the Weather-Ready Nation vision to include: the National Digital Forecast Database, the National Blend of Models, NOAA Virtual Laboratory, and Impact-Based Decision Support Services (IDSS) tools such as Inter-Regional Integrated Services Framework (IRIS), and many others.

As we welcome Steve to his new position, I would also like to thank **David Ruth** for his tireless stewardship over the last 3 years, as he performed the majority of the duties of the MDL Director.

Steve joined the NWS in 1993, and as a branch chief in MDL, has brought diverse and talented people together from different organizations to solve challenging problems. He has led the development and implementation of more than 30 decision support tools and guidance products to enhance NWS operations, for which he has been recognized with the NOAA Administrator's Award and the DOC Bronze Medal. At the NOAA level, Steve has been a catalyst in improving the transition of research to operations through the creation of policy, processes, and funding initiatives. In 2013,

he established the NOAA Virtual Laboratory, a foundational piece of NWS' R2O-O2R strategy.

Over the years, Steve has been a strong advocate for creating a healthy and high performing culture in NWS, one based on diversity and inclusion. He has served as NWS' Diversity Program Manager, NWS representative to the NOAA Diversity Committee, and Chair of the NWS Diversity Council. Steve has provided specialized diversity training for numerous organizations both inside and outside of NOAA. For this leadership, he received both the NOAA Administrator's Award and the NOAA Spectrum Award.

Steve earned both his Ph.D. and M.S. degrees in Meteorology from McGill University in Montreal, Canada. He received his B.S. in Mathematics and Physical Sciences from the University of Maryland. Before joining NWS, he was a Research Associate at the Cooperative Institute for Research in the Atmosphere (CIRA) in Fort Collins.

I look forward to continuing our high quality applied research and software development from MDL under Steve's leadership.

-Ming