



Serving Opportunity and Meals in the Rio Grande Valley

NWS Brownsville Assists Community at Career Fair, Ronald McDonald House

Whether providing hope for career opportunities, or hope for families that need emergency assistance, NWS Brownsville/Rio Grande Valley staff was there to help as the calendar turned from September to October. On the 28th and 29th, staff participated in the 11th Annual [Hispanic Engineering, Science, and Technology Week \(HESTEC\)](#) at an evening social and a career expo to showcase student career experience opportunities in NOAA/NWS. On October 1st and 2nd, a half dozen office volunteers prepared meals for in-residence families at [Ronald McDonald House of the Rio Grande Valley](#) as part of Community Service Week 2012.

HESTEC Fall Career Expo

On September 28th, Senior Forecaster **Brian H. Miller** accompanied Warning Coordination Meteorologist **Barry Goldsmith** to an evening social in the student union of the University of Texas – Pan American in Edinburg. Each spoke briefly with more than a dozen students working toward degrees in engineering, computer science and information systems, marine biology, psychology, and communications. The range of interests matches the future of NWS and a Weather Ready Nation, which goes far beyond hydrometeorology. Our future workforce will diversify to include skill sets in information systems technology, communications, and social sciences.

These students joined hundreds more at the Career Expo on the 29th. **Mr. Miller** was joined by Forecaster **Maria Torres** and Electronics Technician **Cesar Ochoa** in the NWS booth (photo, below). Dozens of students from the Rio Grande Valley and from around the world stopped by the NWS booth to discuss potential career opportunities with NOAA and NWS; a number of them dropped off resumes and expressed interest in learning more about the agencies. Brochures and flyers describing careers in meteorology and the Student Career Experience Program (SCEP) were

provided, and web sites of NOAA and NWS career information and colleges/universities that offered atmospheric science curricula were displayed upon request. One student was particularly interested in SCEP, and planned to “definitely apply”. “It was great to speak to and inspire students and graduates about the great job opportunities available in the NWS,” said Ms. Torres. This message was amplified, appropriately, to a community with a rich Latin American culture during the peak of Hispanic Heritage Month (September 15th through October 15th).



Ronald McDonald House Community Service Week Initiative

Ronald McDonald House Charities are “homes away from home for families whose seriously ill children receive emergency medical care at local hospitals and clinics”. Private businesses and individual donors contributed to the design and construction of the Ronald McDonald House of the Rio Grande Valley in Harlingen, TX. Donors and volunteers help maintain the facility, and are welcome to “make a meal” and donate other goods and services through the year.

During the afternoon of October 1st, Meteorologist-In-Charge **Steve Drillette** joined Senior Forecaster **Geoffrey Bogorad** and Electronics Technician **Cesar Ochoa** and his girlfriend Mandy Garcia to prepare a full meal of chicken and rice, vegetables, and brownies. The following afternoon, Warning Coordination Meteorologist **Barry Goldsmith** joined Hydrometeorological Technician **Alfredo Vega** and Forecaster **Maria Torres** to prepare a second meal of spaghetti and meatsauce, salad and garlic bread, with pie for dessert. The meals were designed to serve up to three families living at the residence. In addition to the meals, boxes of household items were given by charitable NWS Brownsville/Rio Grande Valley staff, including a car seat, stroller set, five bags of non-perishable food, one bag of clothing, and food storage containers. “It was a real joyful experience to serve these families in need,” said Ms. Torres. “I was happy to know that we gave families some love and peace during such difficult times.” The NWS Brownsville/Rio Grande Valley family plans future donations of goods and services to this worthy charity.