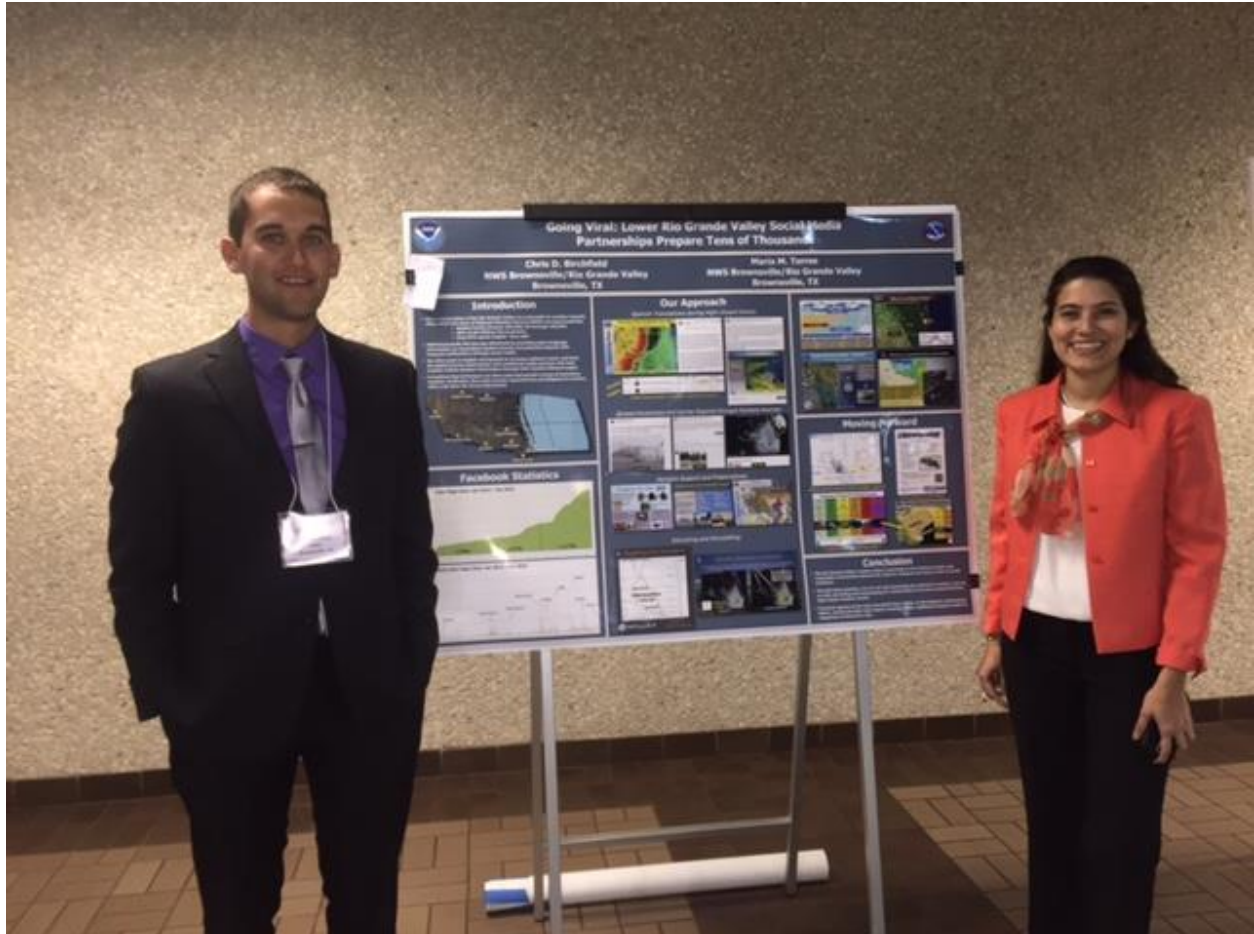


# NWS Brownsville/Rio Grande Valley In Your Neighborhood...and Beyond!



Chris Birchfield and Maria Torres in front of poster entitled "Going Viral: Lower Rio Grande Valley Social Media Partnerships Prepare Tens of Thousands" at the First Annual Texas Weather Conference in Austin, February 5th and 6th, 2016.

## January 2016

**January 4, 11, 18, 25** – Warning Coordination Meteorologist *Barry Goldsmith* or Observation Program Leader *Erin Billings* participated in or provided input to the **weekly Texas Drought Monitor teleconference**.

**January 11:** Meteorologist *Chris Birchfield* gave a tour to a group of 11 juniors and seniors from **Gladys Porter High School** Engineering class.

**January 12:** *Barry Goldsmith* and Forecaster/Spanish Language Liaison *Maria Torres* presented at the 96<sup>th</sup> AMS Annual Meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana. Goldsmith and Torres presented to nearly 75 persons in each session. Goldsmith's presentation was "From the Statement Heard Around the World to Hurricane Threats and Impacts: The Evolution of Communicating Potential Impacts and Safety Messages Since Katrina" at the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Special Symposium on Hurricane Katrina; Torres presented at the 11<sup>th</sup> Symposium on Societal Applications on “Improving Weather Communications in Areas of High Socioeconomic Vulnerability”. Links to the extended abstracts for each presentation can be found at <http://weather.gov/rqv/?n=research> .

**January 19-20:** Information Technology Officer *Pablo Gonzalez* and Barry Goldsmith saw more than 2,000 visitors at the **Winter Texan Expo** at the McAllen Convention Center, and discussed all things weather to more than 500 who stopped by to chat. In all, more than 8,000 people, many from the Northern Plains, Upper Midwest, and Western Canada attended the popular event.

**January 20:** Meteorologist *Maria Torres* gave an interview to **Radio Esperanza** about the importance of the NOAA Weather Radio and preparedness actions we can take during winter weather.

**January 26:** *Barry Goldsmith* attended and participated in the **second to last RGV Hurricane Evacuation Study (HES) meeting** at the Cameron County Annex in San Benito.

**January 28:** *Barry Goldsmith* attended and participated in the second **planning meeting for the RGV AirEvac Exercise**, scheduled in June, at Texas State Technical College in Harlingen.

## February 2016

**February 1, 8, 15, 22, 29:** *Barry Goldsmith* and/or *Erin Billings* participated in or provided input to the **weekly Texas Drought Monitor teleconference**.

**February 5-6:** *Chris Birchfield*, *Maria Torres* and *Barry Goldsmith* participated at the **Texas Weather Conference** in Austin, Texas. This conference was organized by the by NWS San Antonio. Barry Goldsmith presented on “How Partnerships among NWS Brownsville, Corpus Christi, and south Texas Emergency Managers Prepared Communities Prior to Flooding in 2015.” Maria Torres also presented on Building a Weather Ready Rio Grande Valley from the Ground Floor: “The Spanish Language Early Warning Severe Weather Notification System.” Chris Birchfield presented a poster on “NWS Brownsville/Rio Grande Valley Social Media Partnerships Prepare Tens of Thousands of Residents for Hazardous Weather.” More than 100 persons attended the workshops.

**-February 5:** *Barry Goldsmith* presented on the spring and summer weather and climate outlook, for the fifth year in a row, at the 70<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Subtropical Agricultural and Environments Society at the Texas Agrilife Center in Weslaco. More than 100 students, faculty, and agricultural specialists were on hand.

**February 13-14:** Senior Meteorologist *Geoff Bogorad* and Meteorologist *Blair Scholl* provided Decision Support Services to the South Padre Island/Brownsville Airport during for the Annual **Air Fiesta Show**. Meteorologist-in-Charge *James Reynolds*, Meteorologist *Jason Straub*, *Erin Billings*, and *Chris Birchfield* also assisted with the booth with more than 1,000 visitors engaging with our staff.

**-February 13:** *Barry Goldsmith* and *Pablo Gonzalez* participated as judges at the **UT-RGV Brownsville Science Fair**. Barry presented special awards from NOAA to winners in the Junior and Senior division at the evening ceremony. Students from the RGV area displayed more than 100 different projects.

**February 16:** *Blair Scholl* gave a **Skywarn** Training session to King Ranch/Falfurrias area, where around 15 persons from law enforcement and the general population were trained or recertified.

**February 18:** *Barry Goldsmith* attended the **Cameron County EMC Meeting** at the Brownsville Central Public Library to discuss activities planned prior to the RGV Full Scale AirEvac Hurricane Exercise. He provided a quick briefing on upcoming Skywarn spotter classes and a brief spring weather outlook.

**February 20:** *Geoff Bogorad* and *Chris Birchfield* provided support with rainfall measurements at the **Los Fresnos Rodeo**.

**February 23:** *Barry Goldsmith* attended the second **RGV Evacuation Exercise Planning Meeting** at the Texas State Technical College Harlingen Campus.

**February 25:** *Barry Goldsmith* and *Pablo Gonzalez* presented on STEM-related careers in NOAA/NWS at the **IDEA Early College Prep Career Day**. Barry presented to 10<sup>th</sup> graders on NWS Meteorology while Pablo gave his presentation on Computer Science and STEM to 9<sup>th</sup> graders.

-*Geoff Bogorad* and *Barry Goldsmith* gave an office tour with DSS/Weather Ready Nation concept and future services.