20 Years of University and Weather Service Partnership

To find out more, click on the below links:

- Award Winning Program
- About Us
- COMET Sponsors and Partners
- COMET Staff
In 1990, the University Corporation for Atmospheric Research (UCAR) and the National Weather Service (NWS) established the COMET Program to promote a better understanding of mesoscale meteorology and to maximize the benefits of new weather technologies.
1990 – Outreach Program

Provided funding for 350 collaborative research projects that improve local weather forecasts.

Partnerships have linked more than 90 universities and 112 National Weather Service offices.

www.comet.ucar.edu.outreach
The COMET Residence program supports activities that enhance the teaching of mesoscale meteorology at universities. Shown here is the first Residence Class held, COMET Mesoscale Analysis and Prediction (COMAP).
1992 – First Laser Disc Module

COMET’s first digital product was distributed on laser disc for the Workshop on Doppler Radar.
In 1996, technology evolved from laser disc to CD Rom.

Numerical Weather Prediction: The Forecast Process
The MetEd (Meteorology Education and Training) website was established to provide free education and training resources to benefit the operational forecaster community, university atmospheric scientists and students, and anyone interested in learning more deeply about meteorology and weather forecasting topics.

www.meted.ucar.edu
2001 – Hurricane Strike!

COMET’s first flash and award-winning module, *Hurricane Strike!*, includes 3D animations with rich interactive learning experiences.
MetEd en Español was formed to support operational forecasting by reaching our Spanish speaking users.
After many years of successful residence course offerings, blended and virtual courses were added to COMET’s list of services.
Award Winning Program

- **2004 Louis J. Battan Authors Award, K-12 Category for Hurricane Strike!™**
- **For Polar Lows Ungava Bay 01 December 2000**
- **American Geophysical Union Excellence in Geophysical Education Award 2006**
- **2009 National Weather Association Public Education Award**
- **2005 Honorable Mention in the non-interactive media category of the Science & Engineering Visualization Challenge**
- **2000 Hurricane Conference Outstanding Achievement Award for Community Hurricane Preparedness**
- **2008 NSF and the Journal Science International Science & Engineering Visualization Challenge: Semi-Finalist**
- **Bronze Medal for Boundary Detection & Convection Initiation**

Click to Home
COMET Today: Fast Facts

- Staff of 42
- Annual budget $6.5 million
- 1,000 universities have participated in COMET activities since 1990
- 600 hours of online distance learning
- 130,000 registered MetEd users and 2,000 virtual course users
- 6 weeks of residence courses
COMET Sponsors and Partners

**NOAA**
- National Weather Service
- National Environmental Satellite Data Information Service
- National Polar-orbiting Operational Environmental Satellite Systems

**DoD**
- Naval Meteorology and Oceanography Command
- Air Force Weather Agency

**International and Other**
- Meteorological Service of Canada
- Australian Bureau of Meteorology
- European Organisation for the Exploitation of Meteorological Satellites
- National Environmental Education Foundation
COMET has broadened its work to provide education and training in other geoscience fields, using innovative instructional methods to engage both professionals and the public.

COMET produces and delivers online modules and courses that serve as resources for a wide variety of users, including operational meteorologists, emergency managers, broadcast meteorologists, the public, and K-12 teachers and students.

COMET online materials and modules serves over 130,000 registered users in 200 countries, and a portion of the on-line library is available in Spanish and French.

The COMET staff includes scientists, multimedia specialists, graphic artists, instructional designers, and administrative and information technology specialists. The COMET Program Director is Dr. Timothy Spangler, and the Deputy Director is Dr. Joe Lamos.
COMET Staff Through the Years

1990

2004

2006

1996

2009