

Quick Facts about the Department of Earth & Atmospheric Sciences at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Academic uniqueness

- The EAS Department offers the only Atmospheric Science degree in the state, let alone the NU system, that qualifies recipients to work for the National Weather Service.
- The Geology degree is the only avenue at UNL for students to qualify for licensure as Licensed Professional Geologists.
- The graduate programs are the only Earth and Atmospheric Science graduate programs in the state.
- Only faculty in the state with industry experience training students for energy and strategic minerals exploration

Scientific impact and Academic Achievement

- We're publishing in high-impact journals (impact may not figure into AA metrics)
 - In the last 5 years
 - 10 articles in *Nature*
 - 1 article in *Science*
 - 2 articles in *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*
 - 4 articles in *Bulletin of the American Meteorological Society* (flagship journal of the AMS)
- Junior faculty are being recognized as leaders in their fields
 - 2 NSF CAREER awards in last 5 years (Irina Filina, Lynne Elkins)
 - Harold & Esther Edgerton Junior Faculty Award in 2025 (Liang Chen)
 - Fulbright Award (Irina Filina)
- Senior faculty are being recognized for career achievements
 - Sheri Fritz – member of National Academy of Sciences (only 5th member from UNL)
 - Peter Wager - Gilbert Harris Award for Career Contributions to Systematics in Paleontology
 - David Harwood - new fossil diatom genus named in his honor: *Davidharwoodia* (Abe & Jordan 2023); and a new species: *Triceratium harwoodii* (Witkowski 2023)
- Faculty are recognized on campus for their achievements
 - 2 CAS inquire talks in 2025 (Ross Dixon, Cara Burberry)
 - Nebraska Lectures 2024 (Adam Houston)
 - Chancellor's Distinguished Lecture 2023 (Ross Secord)
- Faculty are earning university teaching awards
 - CAS Distinguished Teaching Award: Matthew Van Den Broeke (2021), Lynne Elkins (2021), David Harwood (2019)

- Faculty are PI or co-PI on more than \$17.6M in active externally funded research awards
- Faculty are PI or co-PI on more than \$11.4M in proposals submitted for externally funded research grant

Student success

- Our students are being recognized with national and international honors
 - In the last 5 years
 - 4 students who earned a NSF grad fellowship as a UNL undergrad in EAS or came to EAS after having earned a fellowship
 - 2 students with Fulbrights joined the program
 - Our students won Regional (U.S.) Challenge Bowl Competition of the Society of Exploration Geophysicists (SEG) in Spring 2025
- Each year multiple EAS students earn UCARE fellowships to pursue independent research

Leaders in campus-wide environmental science efforts

- “Nebraska Sandhills” book (won Nebraska 2025 Book Award)
 - Co-edited by Sherilyn Fritz
 - Chapters by Sherilyn Fritz, David Loope, Erin Haacker, and Adam Houston
- Ice Coring and Education (ICE) Silo
 - 2022 Grand Challenges planning grant
 - Led by David Harwood and Mindi Searls
- Community Climate Resilience on the Great Plains
 - Grand Challenge planning grant
 - Led by Clint Rowe
- Nebraska State Climate Report (2025)
 - Led by EAS alumnus
 - Chapter by EAS faculty and student (Ross Dixon and Emanuel Audu)

Community Engagement

- Nebraska and the nation look to our faculty for insight on topical issues in Earth and atmospheric science
 - In the last 12 months \$4M in equivalent ad revenue from media coverage of EAS faculty
 - In the last 5 years
 - CNN interview (Adam Houston)
 - New York Times feature story (Adam Houston)
 - Newsweek (Liang Chen)
 - Business Insider (David Harwood)
 - Well over 2 dozen interviews and features in local media
- Exceptional community engagement by EAS faculty, staff, and students
 - Dinosaurs and Disasters (since 2005)

- Led by EAS in partnership with Nebraska State Museum
- Largest community event hosted by the State Museum
- Averages over 1000 community members per event

Workforce Development

- Graduates are successfully employed in their field or pursuing an advanced degree
 - Students who graduated in the past 10 years
 - 94% with BS in meteorology
 - 92% with BS or BA in geology
 - 98% with MS or PhD in Earth and Atmospheric Sciences
- EAS alumni are employed in state and federal agencies across Nebraska
 - National Weather Service
 - US Army Corps of Engineers
 - 557th Weather Wing, US Air Force, Offutt AFB
 - Military, civilian, and consultants
 - Nebraska Department of Water, Energy, and Environment
 - Nebraska Oil and Gas Conservation Commission
- EAS alumni serve as center directors at UNL with public-facing missions
 - National Drought Mitigation Center
 - Nebraska State Climate Office
 - Conservation and Survey Division
 - Nebraska Water Center
- EAS alumni hold top positions in industry, including in water, energy, and mineral resources, environmental consulting and remediation, private weather forecasting
- EAS alumni serve the public as broadcast meteorologists on stations across Nebraska and the country