

## ESRL PSD hosts meeting with CREST – and the topic wasn't toothpaste!

“CREST” is actually [NOAA's Cooperative Science Center for Earth System Sciences and Remote Sensing Technologies](#). Affiliated with the City University of New York, CREST conducts research and educates and trains a diverse group of students, early career scientists, and engineers in NOAA-related science missions. The goal is to help create a diverse STEM workforce for NOAA and its contractors, academia, industries and the private sector.

To initiate new collaborations and strengthen existing ones, the Earth System Research Laboratory (ESRL) Physical Sciences Division (PSD) hosted a three-day meeting in Boulder, Colorado with representatives from CREST.

The meeting kicked off with overview presentations by ESRL and PSD Director Dr. Robert Webb, and by NOAA-CREST Assistant Director Dr. Shakila Merchant, followed by presentations by CREST scientists/students and PSD scientists. The CREST delegates also toured the ESRL divisions and learned about various ongoing NOAA mission-priority research projects.

Four CREST graduate students – Equisha Glenn, Jean Pierre Valle, David Melecio-Vasquez, and Aris Fernandez – showcased their research projects and discussed their upcoming plans of experiential and research training opportunities at ESRL. CREST and PSD experts then discussed existing research projects, which culminated in creation of short- and long-term collaborative research and education/training plans.

A luncheon meeting with the four ESRL division directors on the second day led to discussions about the existing and future scope of research and education collaborations across ESRL.

The final day of the meeting was dedicated to a demonstration of the NOAA National Water Model, and deliberations on future collaborations and engagement in areas of mutual interest such as drought, flooding, food, and snow, which tie into the NOAA renewed missions of Weather, Water and the Blue Economy.

“There is clearly a tremendous opportunity for collaboration between PSD and CREST, especially on the topic of water extremes.” said meeting organizer and PSD researcher Dr. Robert Cifelli.

A highlight of the meeting was identifying additional [NOAA Experiential and Research Training Opportunities](#) for graduate and postdoctoral students.

Plans to reconnect at the upcoming AGU and AMS meetings and initiate a monthly brown-bag series brought the meeting to an enthusiastic end!

This meeting set a path forward for ESRL and CREST to stay connected and meaningfully engage in advancing NOAA's science, social science and education missions. Details on collaborative projects will be available on the PSD and CREST websites in the near future.