

Peer Review of Matthew Bednar's Project: TRACER+ Visualization

Matt was involved in the TRACER (Tracking Aerosol Convection Interactions Experiment) field campaign in Houston, Texas. The overall goal of the project is to determine the impact that aerosols and particulate matter in the atmosphere have on the development of convective storms.

Matt did a great job highlighting his specific role in the project. Hundreds of scientists from around the U.S. are involved with this project, so it was important that he emphasized how he has contributed. His role this summer was to assist with and participate in daily forecast discussions for the TRACER project operations teams, and it was clear why forecasting for this project was important. Matt also was involved with gathering data collected through the project and performed data visualization. He had a solid understanding of each element that was included in the forecast discussion and the data he was visualizing. He could interpret weather models and observational data very well by applying his knowledge in the meteorology field.

The presentation was easy to follow as he led us through the storyline. He introduced the project by discussing the overall mission of the project, then narrowed down to his specific role. He concluded by discussing how his work contributes to the project as a whole and how his work can contribute to future research.

Matt also included clear visuals to illustrate the type of data he is looking at, the different tools used for forecasting, and displayed some of his results. His visual aid had a clear flow, and the graphics were understandable on their own without needing to refer to the text.

It was clear that Matt had rehearsed his presentation a few times. He had a natural flow to his presentation, didn't speak too fast or too slow, too loudly or too soft, and his presentation fit in the 10–15-minute range perfectly. He explained acronyms and technical terms for the audience, so that even if audience members aren't familiar with the field, they were still able to understand his project clearly. He maintained eye contact and used natural hand gestures and body language. He did a great job answering questions about his research following his presentation and provided audience members with truthful and relevant answers.

Overall, Matt seemed genuinely excited about the work he was doing and was enthusiastic about sharing his findings and experience with others.