Biography for Dr. Christopher James Melick

Originally from Indianapolis, IN, I received my BS and MS in Atmospheric Science from Purdue University in 2000 and 2003, respectively.   I then obtained my PhD in Atmospheric Science from the University of Missouri-Columbia in 2008.   My dissertation topic involved investigating the forcing and instability mechanisms associated with convective snow events (i.e. thundersnow) across the CONUS with a research grant which allowed regular monitoring and forecasting activities, as well as a field research component.   My research interests include winter weather, lightning, severe convective storms, and other high-impact phenomena that are often evaluated from high-resolution numerical weather models/ensembles.

My career started in the private sector working as a data services meteorologist at Baron Services in Huntsville, AL in charge of scientific analysis, upgrade, and improvement of their weather data products. Towards the end of 2009 I joined the NWS/Storm Prediction Center (SPC) as a federal contractor with CIMMS. I worked on various projects to move research into operations, with a significant amount of time devoted to being a science/technical liaison and facilitator for the Hazardous Weather Testbed (HWT).   As a principal investigator for SPC, I obtained funding for R2O projects for SPC, assisted in the hiring process for new CIMMS employees, and served as a focal point/mentor for subsequent research topics. In 2017, I became a civilian meteorologist for the United States Air Force at Offutt Air Force Base.   My primary role has been to research, design, and test cutting-edge forecast verification techniques as well as to identify new datasets and products for improving ways to examine performance of numerical weather models. Finally, I have been an adjunct professor for the University of Missouri-Columbia since 2017, primarily assisting as an advisor on committees for MS/PhD students.