



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Janice Bunting
National Weather Association
405.701.5167 exdir@nwas.org

Milestone Achieved For Weathercaster Seal of Approval

Norman, Okla. - Jan. 30, 2018 - It's a big day for the National Weather Association as the number of Weathercaster Seal of Approval holders hits 1,000. Our two newest seal holders take us over the top as they are awarded the 999th and 1,000th seal for broadcast meteorologists!

Number 999 is Kaitlyn McGrath at WVIT NBC Connecticut. She previously worked in Charleston, South Carolina. Her interest in meteorology was sparked at a young age when she witnessed Hurricane Bertha in person. Kaitlyn is also volunteer with the Red Cross as a Community Disaster Preparedness Educator and Blood Donor Ambassador.

Seal holder 1,000 is Abby Acone from KRDO in Colorado Springs. Originally from Bellevue, Washington, Abby has been in Colorado for the last four years. She holds degrees in communication and Spanish, which help her as she does the weather for KRDO's Telemundo affiliate. Abby is currently working on her bachelor's degree in geosciences from Mississippi State.

"I'm pleased to welcome our newest Seal holders. As NWA President and Seal holder #187, it's great to see the growth and strength of the Seal program, and the diversity of experience and abilities of those who have earned the NWA Seal." – Alan Sealls, 2018 NWA President.

The [NWA Weathercaster Seal of Approval](#) program has been in existence since the early '80s. Its mission is to promote quality weather broadcasting. Our very first seal was awarded in May 1982. Of the 1,000 seals issued, more than 375 are valid and active for television or radio weather broadcasting. The longest active seal holder is John G. Bernier, chief meteorologist for WRIC in Richmond, Virginia, who holds seal number 3.

Over the years, the qualifications to get the seal have become more stringent to make sure all seal holders uphold the principles and good practices set forth by the NWA. In 2014, the program was expanded to include the [Digital Seal](#) with the goal to distinguish scientifically based credible weather content on the internet from all others. (insert link to digital seal holders)

Congratulations to Kaitlyn and Abby, and here's to the next 1,000!

The NWA is a member-led, all inclusive, non-profit, professional association with a mission of "Connecting operational meteorologists in pursuit of excellence in weather forecasting, communication and service."

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