

Richard J. (Dick) Westergard founded Shade Tree Meteorology, LLC, located in Niskayuna, NY after retiring from government service in 2004.

In 2006, Dick earned the American Meteorological Society's (AMS) highest level of certification - "Certified Consulting Meteorologist" (CCM) - and now practices primarily forensic meteorology, with a specialization in re-constructing severe weather events.

Dick started his career in weather in 1966 as an Air Force weather observer, then became a National Weather Service (NWS) Meteorological Technician from 1973 to 1988. From 1988 to 1994, Dick was Meteorologist in Charge of the Duluth NWS office, and from 1994 to 2004 he was Warning Coordination Meteorologist at the Albany NWS office.

Dick used the GI Bill to take college courses at a variety of colleges and universities, culminating in a degree from Marshall University in 1988. He has since attended graduate courses at the University of Minnesota, Duluth, SUNY Brockport and the National Weather Service Training Center, and done research on communicating weather information with the SUNY Albany Communication Department.

Dick is a past president of the National Council of Industrial Meteorologists, the premier association of private sector CCMs in the country, and was 2014 Chair of the AMS Board of Certified Consulting Meteorologists, which is the governing and examining body for the CCM program.

Dr. Alicia Wasula earned her Bachelor, Master and Doctoral Degrees in Meteorology at the University at Albany and recently earned her CCM as well. She developed a passion for severe weather and traveled to the Great Plains to study it in the field. She spent a summer in Norman, Oklahoma at the National Storm Prediction Center, doing research with Bob Johns, a prominent severe weather scientist.

In graduate school, Alicia developed a skill for making difficult meteorological concepts understandable in the classroom. Alicia taught a variety of courses from upper level science to entry level courses for non science majors, earning praise for her communication style.

During her post-graduate studies, Alicia continued to work closely with operational forecasters on research projects at the Albany National Weather Service Office and the the Storm Prediction Center on both her Master and Doctoral research projects.

Alicia continues her passion for science and clear communication and delivers the real documented scientific facts to our clients in terms readily understood by non meteorologists.