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Mitch Ziesemer Earns Certified AMS Teacher (CAT) Designation



Mitch Ziesemer of West Bend West High School has earned the American Meteorological Society's Certified AMS Teacher (CAT) designation, a professional recognition for completing required coursework and being actively engaged in raising Earth science literacy. Among science educators, the CAT designation is sought as a mark of distinction and recognition.

"The CAT Program provides an incentive for continued professional growth for Earth science educators, ensuring that CATs remain up-to-date on new developments in Earth science and teaching standards. It offers K-12 educators opportunities to enroll in AMS Education Program courses to enhance their knowledge of weather, ocean, and climate science," said AMS Executive Director Keith Seitter.

Ziesemer has been a physics teacher at West Bend West High School the last five years and excited to teach the new Meteorology course offered at the high schools. He graduated from the University of Wisconsin – Madison with Bachelor of Science degrees (3) in Atmospheric & Oceanic Science, Astronomy – Physics, and Physics. "Weather is one aspect of life we can all relate to. Its fundamental to the economy, recreation, and instilling a curiosity of the world around us." said Ziesemer. Outside the classroom Ziesemer is going into his third season as the West Bend West Girls Cross Country Head Coach. He shares his life with his wife Danielle, and two toddlers Sophia and Everett.

To earn the CAT, active, in-service K-12 teachers and informal educators must have a degree in atmospheric or related science and/or have successfully completed all the requirements of at least two of the AMS Education Program's Professional Development Courses for graduate credit. CATs must also earn professional development points in order to maintain their certification. These points can be earned by additional AMS coursework, attending scientific seminars or meetings and similar activities.

The AMS promotes the development and dissemination of information and education on the atmospheric and related oceanic and hydrologic sciences and the advancement of their professional applications. Founded in 1919, AMS has a membership of more than 12,000 professionals, students, and weather enthusiasts. AMS publishes 11 atmospheric and related oceanic and hydrologic journals, sponsors more than 12 conferences annually, offers educators

low cost graduate coursework in weather, ocean and climate science, and provides many other programs and services.

For more information on the Certified AMS Teacher (CAT) Program, visit <https://www.ametsoc.org/amscert>.

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