Illinois State Climatologist

Qualifications and Experience
Employee of the Illinois State Water Survey with at least a master’s degree in climatology or related discipline, such as meteorology, geography, or environmental science; ten years of experience in applied climatology; extensive knowledge of the climatology of Illinois.

Role and responsibilities:
Serves as the authoritative spokesperson on matters of climate science for ISWS, the Prairie Research Institute, and the State of Illinois. Responsible for monitoring current Illinois weather and climate conditions; conducting applied climate research on topics such as drought, heat waves, and heavy rainfall events and reporting the research in journal articles and reports; providing climate information to users; giving interviews to the media on climate-related matters; and working with local, state, and federal agencies on climate-related issues.

Related Resources
ISWS will provide support for travel and other needs in performing the duties of State Climatologist.

History
Prior to April 1973 when the budget was cut, the Illinois State Climatologist was a federal position within the National Weather Service. Because of the considerable climate research taking place at ISWS at the time, the Survey became the new home for the position. The position was established by Public Act 98-0346 and signed into law by Governor Quinn on August 14, 2013. The Executive Director of the Prairie Research Institute appoints the State Climatologist. The list of State Climatologists in ISWS includes:
2. Wayne M. Wendland, PhD, 1980-1996
3. James R. Angel, PhD 1997-present

12/4/13