

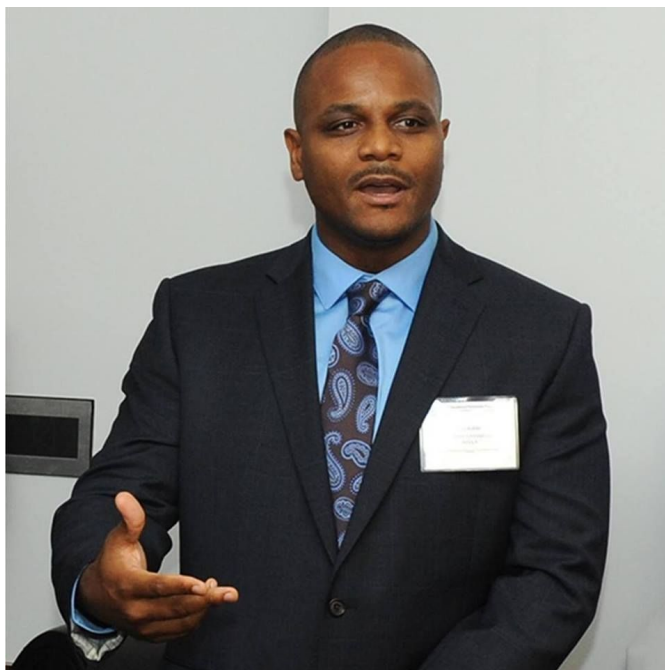
2019 Black Engineer of the Year Award NOAA Recipient Biographies



**National Oceanic and
Atmospheric Administration**
U.S. Department of Commerce

Six [NOAA](#) employees were recognized as Modern Day Technology Leaders at the annual [Black Engineer of the Year Awards](#) (BEYA) Global Competitiveness Conference, which was held February 7-9, 2019, in Washington, D.C. These awards recognize significant minority achievement in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM).

Dr. Lonnie Gonsalves



Dr. Lonnie Gonsalves is an environmental scientist for the [NOAA National Ocean Service](#). In 2017, he joined the headquarters staff for the [National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science](#) where he serves as the portfolio manager for the [NOAA Ecological Forecasting Roadmap](#). Within this role, Gonsalves coordinates agency-wide science activities that transition applied research into products and services (e.g. Harmful Algal Bloom forecasts) that protect coastal communities. Prior to this role, Gonsalves conducted a 16-month detail assignment (2015-2017) in the [NOAA Program Coordination Office](#) where he provided staff and policy support to the NOAA administrator.

Gonsalves' career began in 2010 when he was accepted into the [NOAA Graduate Sciences Program](#) as a doctoral student at the University of Maryland Eastern Shore. During this time, Gonsalves' research focused on characterizing the impact of prey availability on disease resistance in Chesapeake Bay striped bass. Following completion of his doctoral degree in 2012, Gonsalves began working full time at the Cooperative Oxford Lab where he assisted with

the development and implementation of an ecological assessment of the Chesapeake Bay. This work helped to determine the impact of land use on fish habitat and environmental quality. Gonsalves received his B.S. in biology from East Carolina University in 2005.

Gonsalves has complemented his science efforts with direct engagement in NOAA's diversity and inclusion initiatives with specific emphasis on building science partnerships with Minority-Serving Institutions to diversify the STEM workforce. Gonsalves serves as a liaison to the [NOAA Center for Coastal and Marine Ecosystems](#), one of the agency's flagship partnerships to increase minority student training in ocean and atmospheric science. Gonsalves is also a member of the NOAA Diversity and Professional Advancement Work Group where he serves as the team co-lead for recruitment. Gonsalves is committed to broadening awareness of the interdisciplinary nature of NOAA's science mission among minority STEM students and professionals to promote science partnership and recruitment opportunities.

Dr. Michelle Hawkins



Dr. Michelle Hawkins is Chief of the Severe, Fire, Public, and Winter Weather Services Branch in the Analyze, Forecast and Support Office ([AFSQ](#)) of NOAA's National Weather Service ([NWS](#)). She provides programmatic leadership for the nation's severe, public, and winter weather services, as well as weather-support response services for wildland fires in support of NWS land management partners. Hawkins oversees the development of requirements, policy, and procedures for all NWS winter, fire, public, and severe weather forecast and warning services. In support of NWS efforts to build a "Weather-Ready Nation", Hawkins established fruitful collaborations with federal health partners to better understand, communicate, and minimize the health impacts of extreme heat events. She is an author on the

Temperature-Related Illness chapter of the [U.S. Global Change Research Program's Climate and Health Assessment](#), and has written, contributed to, and reviewed journal articles on extreme heat events. Hawkins also provides leadership on advancing diversity and inclusion in AFSO. She leads a diversity and inclusion team and has organized and galvanized efforts critical to inspiring a diverse and inclusive office culture. Hawkins fosters substantive, recurring conversations with management and staff regarding the benefits of diversity and inclusion, and works to gain a deeper understanding of employee perceptions of diversity and inclusion. With Hawkins' leadership, AFSO has evolved to an office moving out in a more inclusive direction, proactively supporting NOAA's diversity and inclusion goals. Hawkins earned a Ph.D. in atmospheric sciences and a B.S. in chemistry from Howard University in Washington, D.C. In her free time, she enjoys vacationing with her husband and eight-year-old daughter.

Dr. Terence Lynch



Dr. Terence Lynch is the senior management and program analyst for [NOAA's Office of Coast Survey](#). He is assigned to the director's staff where his responsibilities include out-year budget formulation, strategic planning, and being an advocate for diversity and inclusion.

Lynch's professional career began in 2001 as a supervisory program analyst for the USDA's Agricultural Research Service's National Program staff in Beltsville, Maryland. In 2004, he was appointed peer review coordinator by the USDA-ARS associate administrator to lead the agency's Office of Scientific Quality and Review which manages and implements the USDA-ARS peer review system for research projects, including peer review policies, processes and procedures. Upon leaving ARS in 2006, he transitioned to the USDA-Risk Management Agency (RMA) in Washington, D.C., as their strategic planner where he led the revision of their

strategic plan and provided sole leadership in ensuring that RMA improve how it integrated performance information into the agency's budget decisions.

Since joining NOAA in 2007, Lynch has benefited from several leadership assignments such as NOAA's 2011 Combined Federal Campaign Manager and as a graduate of [NOAA's Leadership and Competencies and Development Program](#) Class X. In addition, Lynch is a 2017 Excellence in Government Fellow with the Partnership for Public Service and has obtained certifications in project management from the George Washington University and Legislative Affairs and Studies from the Government Affairs Institute at Georgetown University. Lynch is also a graduate of the inaugural class of the General Services Administration [Performance Improvement Council](#)'s Government Performance Ambassador Program.

Lynch is a graduate of Alcorn State University in Lorman, Mississippi, where he earned his B.S. and M.S. degrees in general agriculture and biology and obtained a Ph.D. from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (VA Tech) in Blacksburg, Virginia.

John Moore



John P. Moore III currently works as a forecaster for the National Weather Service ([NWS](#)) in Jackson, Mississippi. His career at NWS has spanned over six years with a prior stop at NWS Memphis as a [Student Career Experience Program/Pathways student](#) and a meteorologist intern. As a forecaster, Moore is tasked with delivering effective and timely weather information including forecasts and warnings to 58 counties and parishes in Central Mississippi, Eastern

Louisiana, and Southeastern Arkansas. At NWS Jackson, Moore serves as the outreach focal point and on the Interactive Digital Signage System (IDSS), social media, and diversity teams. Some of Moore's major accomplishments include leading a team tasked with developing and designing a new state-of-the-art IDSS media room which is now used to virtually brief partners on the often dynamic weather patterns and their subsequent impacts to the ArkLaMiss region. Moore also serves as the NWS Jackson liaison for Jackson State University where he has worked with the university's meteorology department and alumni base to provide [NWS work experiences](#) and mentorship opportunities for students majoring in meteorology and emergency management. Moore prides himself in mentoring a diverse range of college and high school students who are interested in STEM careers. He is also a proponent in finding new, innovative ways to provide life-saving weather information to underserved communities. Moore is passionate about developing new innovative ways and utilizing advanced technology to help NWS meet its main mission of saving life and property. He is most grateful to be recognized by BEYA as a Modern-Day Technology Leader.

Warrick Moran



Warrick Moran currently works as a software engineer within the Engineering Standards Division of the NOAA National Weather Service ([NWS](#)), [Office of Planning and Programming for Service Delivery](#). Moran's 17-year career within NWS includes developing software components for emerging and existing systems and managing the development and maintenance of operational systems environments. As a technical lead for software projects, Moran has directed the successful deployment of the [NWS National Law Enforcement Dissemination System](#) into

the NWS cloud environment located at the National Centers for Environmental Prediction ([NCEP](#)) in College Park, Maryland. During his tenure as a project manager, Moran has maintained the legacy Console Replacement System and the software elements of the radiosonde replacement system, used for upper air atmospheric measurement. In his current role as a software engineer, under the NWS chief engineer Benjie Spencer, Moran performs engineering assessments, evaluations and corrective actions for systems under the NWS umbrella. Moran earned a B.S. in computer science with a math minor from Georgia Southern University where he starred as a 4-year starter on the University's Division I baseball team. He also acquired a master's in information technology from Johns Hopkins University and recently received a System Engineering Certification from Stevens Institute of Technology.

Reginald Ready



Reginald Ready is a senior duty meteorologist (SDM) at the National Weather Service ([NWS](#)) National Centers for Environmental Prediction's Central Operations ([NCO](#)). His career in NWS has spanned over 13 years, with previous private sector experience providing product evaluation and programming support for polar satellite products at the National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service ([NESDIS](#)), and IT support at the National Ocean Service ([NOS](#)) for their 24/7 operation. As an SDM, Ready provides 24/7 monitoring and support of the National Centers for Environmental Prediction ([NCEP](#)) computer operations at

the National Center for Weather and Climate Prediction ([NCWCP](#)), and beyond. Ready is also responsible for quality controlling meteorological data for ingest in NCEP's numerical forecast models, coordinating and initiating several on-demand meteorological applications in the NCEP Production Suite for NCEP's customers and partners, providing situational awareness of the weather, and serving as the 24/7 communications point-of-contact for issues that involve NWS/NCEP operations. Some of Ready's major accomplishments include receiving a local NWS Isaac Cline Award for providing technical leadership and guidance while maintaining NCO's SDM program resilience during the merger of the NCO and NWS tech control organizations; and receiving a group NOAA Administrator's Award for challenging the status quo in driving agency priorities on diversity and inclusion. Lastly, Ready uses a portion of his free time to volunteer at NOAA and NWS/NCEP-specific activities geared towards increasing participation of women and underrepresented minority groups in STEM career fields. Ready is most grateful to be recognized by BEYA as a Modern-Day Technology Leader.