

Erik M. Salna

Erik is a Meteorologist and currently Associate Director of Education and Outreach for the Extreme Events Institute (EEI) and the International Hurricane Research Center (IHRC) at Florida International University (FIU) in Miami. EEI and the IHRC are at the forefront of reducing the impact of natural hazard events through hurricane hazard research, including the NSF-NHERI Wall of Wind. IHRC is also a Weather-Ready Nation Ambassador.

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- Erik testified to the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology in the hearing entitled “The Future of Forecasting: Building a Weather-Ready Nation on All Fronts,” on October 14th, 2021.
- Education outreach has been a career focus for Erik, including the annual NOAA Hurricane Hunter Awareness Tour, the Wall of Wind Mitigation Challenge High School Competition, the Wall of Wind Museum Exhibit, the NOAA P-3 Hurricane Hunter Museum Exhibit, Hurricane Andrew Museum Exhibit, and Eye of the Storm Museum Event. These successful projects involved many public-private-corporate partnerships, and local, state, and national partners, including NOAA-NWS, the National Hurricane Center, the Florida Division of Emergency Management, and The Weather Channel.
- Before FIU, Erik worked at Miami-based America's Emergency Network (AEN) and the non-profit Hurricane Warning at the Disaster Survival House, in Deerfield Beach, Florida.
- Erik has been interviewed by many local, national, and international media outlets. Erik also has over 25 years of experience as a broadcast meteorologist, providing live continuous coverage for hurricanes, tornadoes, and flooding.

- Erik served on the AMS Board for Broadcast Meteorology which developed the AMS Certified Broadcast Meteorologist Seal for television. Erik also spearheaded the 1988 Save Our Weather Office Campaign in Fort Wayne, IN, which resulted in a Congressional response to fund operations of local National Weather Service Offices across the country.
- In 2023, Erik received the Lew Fincher Award from the National Tropical Weather Conference and was nominated Weatherperson of the Year by FLASH and in 2020 was inducted into the Meteorologist Hall of Fame in 2020 by the Punxsutawney Weather Discovery Center. He was recognized in 2016 as an exemplary NOAA Weather-Ready Nation Ambassador, nominated for 2016 Weatherperson of the Year, a Bronze Telly Award in 1998, the Florida Governor's Hurricane Conference Media Award in 1994 and TV Broadcaster of the Year by the National Weather Association in 1989.