

Cliff Mass went to Cornell University for his undergraduate education where he majored in physics. At Cornell, he worked with Astronomer Carl Sagan on a model of the Martian atmosphere and with Stephen Schneider of NCAR on climate modeling.

After Cornell he entered the Ph.D. program at the University of Washington, doing his doctoral work on African wave disturbances, the forerunners of tropical storms and hurricanes in the Atlantic.

Leaving the UW, Cliff joined the faculty of the Meteorology Department at the University of Maryland, where he taught synoptic meteorology and weather prediction, and worked on a variety of research topics, from Northwest weather circulations and high-resolution modeling, to the climatic implications of the Mount St. Helens eruption.

After three years at Maryland, Cliff moved to the University of Washington as an assistant professor in the Department of Atmospheric Sciences. During the next few decades, Cliff and his students have systematically studied the weather and climate of the western U.S., completing over eighty papers on West Coast phenomena as varied as orographic precipitation, coastal surges, the Catalina Eddy, and the Puget Sound convergence zone, to onshore pushes, downslope windstorms, and various local gap winds. Numerical simulation has been a key tool for his group, which now runs the most extensive local high-resolution prediction system in the United States. He is also heavily involved in regional climate modeling for the western U.S. and is actively studying the meteorology of wildfires in the western U.S. He has mentored several dozen M.S. and Ph.D. students.

Cliff has been involved in several other initiatives, including the acquisition of coastal radar on the Washington coast, improving the infrastructure of the National Weather Service, the use of smartphone pressure observations for weather prediction, and the improvement of K-12 math education. He is the author of the 2008 book "The Weather of the Pacific Northwest" for which a second edition was released in August 2021. Cliff also writes a weather blog (cliffmass.blogspot.com) and does frequent media interviews.

Cliff Mass, a full professor at the UW, is a fellow of the American Meteorological Society, has been an editor of several meteorological journals, is a member of the Washington State Academy of Sciences, has published over 170 papers, and has served as a member of several National Academy committees. He is now a Councilor of the American Meteorological Society and is now working on a new book "The Science of Weather Prediction."