



PROFILES IN DIVERSITY

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Earth System Research
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ABOUT RICHARD LATAITIS

Richard began working for NOAA in 1979 as a student intern never expecting to stay for more than one summer. Now almost 42 years later he is looking back on a career that has spanned many professional changes that have included both a research and management component. His technical expertise lies at the intersection of technology and the Earth sciences, with a primary focus on the remote sensing of the atmosphere and oceans.

Richard currently serves as the Associate Director of PSL in Boulder, CO. In that role, he works with PSL management to align and execute research priorities. Prior to that role, he worked as a research scientist for a number of predecessor laboratories on the theoretical aspects of remote sensor development. He also spent time serving as the Deputy Director of the former Physical Sciences Division of ESRL.

Richard is the current chair of the OAR EEO Advisory Committee, where he works with laboratory and program representatives from across OAR to advance EEO initiatives. As the first-generation son of immigrant parents from Lithuania, he appreciates the value diverse backgrounds bring to the NOAA working environment and to the Nation as a whole.

Richard received B.S. degrees in Engineering Physics and Electrical Engineering in 1978 and 1979, respectively, and M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in Electrical Engineering through NOAA's co-op and long-term training programs in 1982 and 1992, respectively, all from the University of Colorado. Richard is married with two grown children and enjoys spending time with his wife, his children and their spouses, and his two grand dogs enjoying all of the outdoor activities that Colorado has to offer.