My *Preliminary* Vision for SOEST
The School of Ocean and Earth Science and Technology

David Parsons
Presidential Professor
University of Oklahoma
Director Emeritus
School of Meteorology
“We live in a world designed for an environment that no longer exists”

Rich Sorkin, the co-founder of Jupiter Intelligence
Climate Risk Analytics
Hawaiʻi is at the forefront of many problems in our changing world.
Hawai‘i is at the forefront of many problems in our changing world

At SOEST our education, research, and outreach can make a difference and help solve these problems!!
“Climate and sustainability is going to be the new computer science. This is what the young people want to work on with their lives, for all the right reasons.”

Stanford from John and Ann Doerr, part of a $1.6 Billion endowment

*Quote from John Doerr article to the NY Times*
“Climate and sustainability is going to be the new computer science. This is what the young people want to work on with their lives, for all the right reasons.”

Working together to develop and implement successful strategies, SOEST can grow and prosper be well positioned to educate and train the next generation of geoscientists.

Be the leader in the Pacific Basin and apply our knowledge to the many of the problems facing the world. SOEST can be at the forefront of making a difference today and in the future!!!

*Quote from John Doerr article to the NY Times*
Who are you?

- Grew up in NJ living by the water
- Rutgers for undergraduate degree (BS Meteorology)
- U Washington for my PhD (Atmospheric Science)
- National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR)
- United Nations Diplomat in the World Meteorological Organization
- On to University of Oklahoma – Director and then University leadership role
Overall Goal: Ensure SOEST is well positioned to strongly contribute to these four goals!!
Student Success

• Recent NSF studies on success for undergraduate and graduate geoscience students
  • Bring research, communication, team-work, and programming into the classroom
  • Partnerships with the private sector
  • Involve alumni
  • Changes to PhD program

• Consider partnerships for interdisciplinary degrees

• Evaluate and reward teaching excellence

• Establish formal and informal lines of communication

• Donors and agency grants to develop facilities, scholarships, and support urgent student needs
Overall Goal: Ensure SOEST is well positioned to strongly contribute to these four goals!!
Native Hawaiian Place of Learning

• Being a Native Hawaiian place of learning requires listening, educating ourselves, and being respectful

• Work to attract and help ensure success for Native Hawaiian students, staff, and faculty

• Seek funding from donors and relevant funding opportunities

• University of Oklahoma partnerships with our Tribes and Nations

• Build partnerships and take action to unite our communities
Justice, Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion
JEDI

• Critical on Hawaii – We are #1 in the US in diversity
  Let’s show the world how it’s done!!!

• Diversify SOEST – it will increase our chances of success

• I will bring significant experience and success in helping to create a JEDI environment

• Adopt strategies to diversify and unite our JEDI community

• Create guidelines and enforce requirements to eliminate hostile and dangerous behavior in field facilities
Overall Goal: Ensure SOEST is well positioned to strongly contribute to these four goals!!
Research

• Support disciplinary and interdisciplinary research
• Compete for and be awarded an NSF Regional Climate Center
• Have state of the art facilities
• Accelerate growth in research funding
• Plan -- growth in research funding means more work for staff
• Partnerships to expand our research leadership across the Pacific Basin and become a world leader
• Donor gifts to recruit and retain faculty (e.g., endowed chairs)
• Develop and/or maintain a supportive environment for students involved in research
ALOHA 'ĀINA

BECOMING A NATIVE HAWAIIAN PLACE OF LEARNING

STUDENT SUCCESS

SUSTAINABILITY

RESEARCH EXCELLENCE

PHOTO CREDIT: KENT NISHIMURA
QUESTIONS