

MAY IS ASIAN AMERICAN & NATIVE HAWAIIAN / PACIFIC ISLANDER HERITAGE MONTH

Asian American and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander Heritage Month is celebrated in May to commemorate the history, culture and contributions of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in the U.S. May was chosen to commemorate the arrival of the first Japanese immigrants to America on May 7, 1843, and to mark the anniversary of the completion of the transcontinental railroad (by many Chinese laborers) on May 10, 1869. In October 1992, Public Law 102-450 was signed designating May as Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month.

2021 Theme: Advancing Leaders Through Purpose-Driven Service

The theme was selected by the [Federal Asian Pacific American Council \(FAPAC\)](#)

OAR Employee in the Spotlight:

Dr. Brian McDonald, Research Scientist

NOAA Chemical Sciences Laboratory (CSL)



Dr. Brian McDonald is a Research Scientist at CSL in Boulder, CO. Prior to arriving in Colorado, he received his Ph.D. in Environmental Engineering and Master's in Public Policy from the University of California, Berkeley. He was a CIRES visiting postdoctoral fellow and received a Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineering in 2019. His expertise is on developing emission inventories of energy and urban systems, assessments of air quality trends, and regional air quality modeling. He also helps contribute to the design and execution of NOAA field campaigns that collect data to help advance NOAA forecast models. He received a Silver Sherman Award in 2021 for his scientific leadership on increasing observations and understanding of air quality impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic.

In addition, Dr. McDonald has been a strong proponent of Diversity & Inclusion and is part of a working group at NOAA CSL trying to increase the diversity of undergraduate, graduate, and early career scientists in the atmospheric sciences. He has mentored students through the Significant Opportunities in Atmospheric Research and Science (SOARS) program and the NOAA Experiential Research and Training Opportunities (NERTO) program, and is active in other outreach & education activities. He also has contributed to studies investigating environmental justice and disparate impacts of air pollution by race, ethnicity and income.

NOAA's OAR [Equal Employment Opportunity/Diversity Program Office](#)
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