

Dr. Ken Crawford, Director Emeritus of the Oklahoma Climatological Survey and Regents' Professor Emeritus of Meteorology at OU, passed away on July 23, 2014, at the age of 71.

Crawford spent 20 years as a senior faculty member in OU's School of Meteorology. He was described as "an outstanding mentor for young scientists." He led the M.S. thesis and Ph. D. dissertation research of 37 students – more than any other meteorology faculty at OU. Through Ken's research efforts, he was awarded more than \$40 million in grants during his professional career.

He was director of the Oklahoma Climatological Survey from 1989 through 2009. During his tenure, Crawford served as the State Climatologist for Oklahoma and was a co-creator of the Oklahoma Mesonet, a statewide network of 120 automated observing stations that was named by the National Research Council as the "gold standard" for surface observing networks in the United States. He also helped design OK-FIRST, an award-winning program (Harvard University, 2001) that was developed to deliver NWS and Mesonet products to public safety officials as well as almost 500 public and private K-12 schools across Oklahoma.

Prior to coming to OU, Crawford worked for 30 years with NOAA, serving five years as a Research Meteorologist for the National Severe Storms Laboratory, and 25 years as an operational meteorologist and senior field manager for the National Weather Service. In his last NWS position, he was the Oklahoma Area Manager and Meteorologist-in-Charge at the NWS Forecast Office in Norman.

While with NOAA, Crawford made important contributions to the early development of Doppler radar research and its eventual deployment of the WSR-88D radar. He was an early pioneer in the NWS Modernization, a visionary in understanding the value of co-locating NOAA operations and research organizations with academia, and a leader in establishing what is now the NOAA/NWS Warning Decision Training Branch.

In 2013, Crawford was presented with the Order of Civil Merit from the Republic of Korea. The award, also known as the Dongbaek Medal, is the primary series of honors for Korean civilians. It was given to Crawford for his meritorious contribution to the development of the nation and the society through improving the quality of the meteorological services. Crawford served as the Vice Administrator of the Korea Meteorological Administration between August 2009 and February 2013. In his role as Vice Administrator, Crawford was charged to advance the meteorological capabilities of the KMA. His comprehensive activities involved improved training and tools for KMA forecasters, an upgrade to the world's most advanced weather radar network, more effective use of computer graphics, and a revamping of the human talent used to produce accurate forecasts.

Crawford was a Fellow of the American Meteorological Society, served three years as one of their Councilors and was awarded the prestigious Cleveland Abbe Award in 2002. He was a longtime member of the National Weather Association, held the title of national president in 1988, served as Councilor in 1990-1991, and was named Member of the Year in 1991. Crawford also was the Past President of the American Association of State Climatologists. He served for six years on the National Research Council's NWS Modernization Committee and was awarded a Silver Medal from the U. S. Department of Commerce in 1988 and the NOAA Administrator's Award in 1985. In October 2007, Crawford was named a "Water Pioneer" by the Oklahoma Water Resources Board for noteworthy contributions in the management and conservation of Oklahoma's water. He also gave numerous invited lectures to international audiences in the People's Republic of China, Korea, Canada, Italy and Morocco, as well as at many locations in eastern Australia.

Crawford earned a B.S. degree in 1966 at the University of Texas in Austin, a M.S. degree in 1967 at Florida State University and his Ph.D. in 1977 at the University of Oklahoma. He was a 1961 graduate of Cleburne Texas High School and a former carrier for the Fort Worth Star Telegram.