

# Recalibrating University Radars: Purpose, Value, and a Sustainable Future

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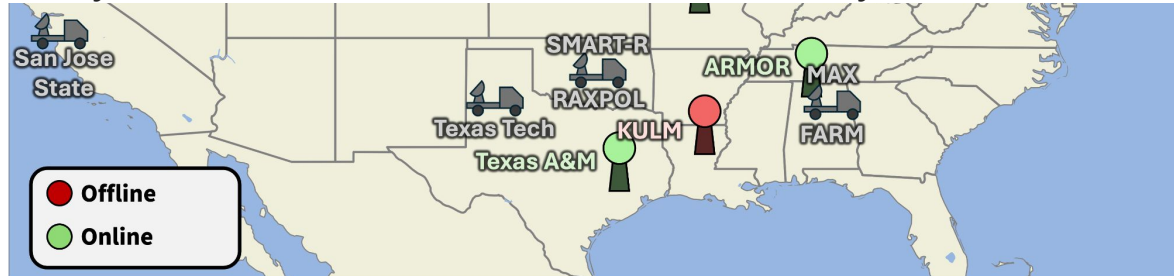
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# Current Status of University Radars

- ~25 university radars
  - Defined as any radar owned and operated by a university
  - Includes 12 mobile and 13 stationary radars



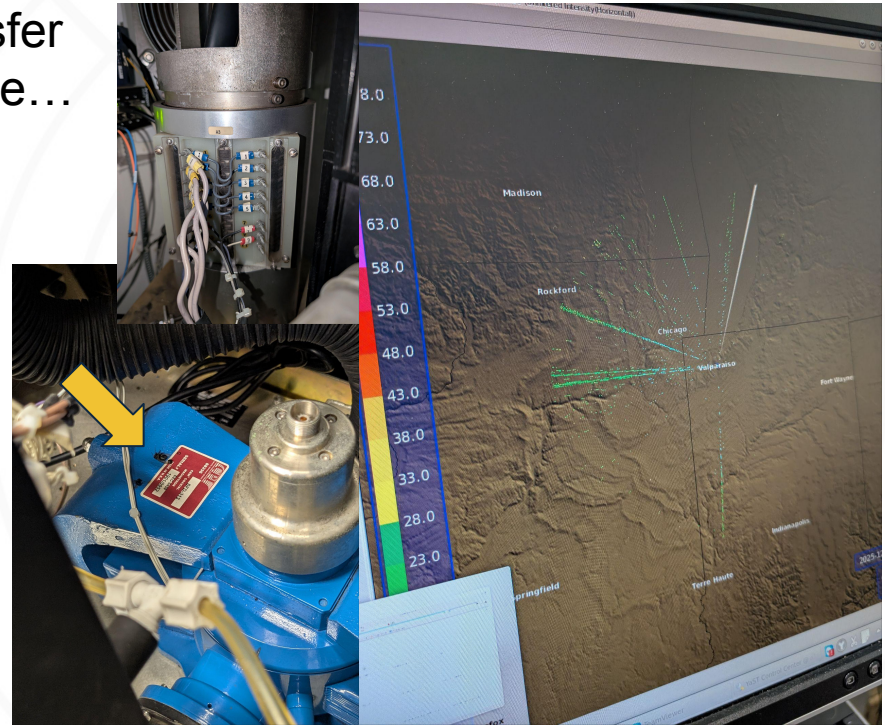
*“I’m happy to tell you the secret of our ‘success’! It’s mostly luck!” - Neil Fox at Mizzou*



# Woes of Maintaining a University Radar

- Funding maintenance, new components, upgrades
- Personnel to maintain the instrument
  - Documentation and knowledge transfer
- Time for troubleshooting and maintenance...

*“[Not only are there equipment] struggles... [but also] just keeping it up! There is only so much the university (and indirects) can do. And time! [My goodness], the time one must dedicate to an aging radar. At almost 10 years of operating, the mechanical toll is showing” - Professor that maintains a university radar*



# Potential Avenues for Funding

- Indirect funding in grants
- National Mesonet Program
- Partnership with state/local stakeholders
- State grants for educational research experiences, equipment, etc.
- University grants
- Donors

However, some of these options are only viable if your radar is working...

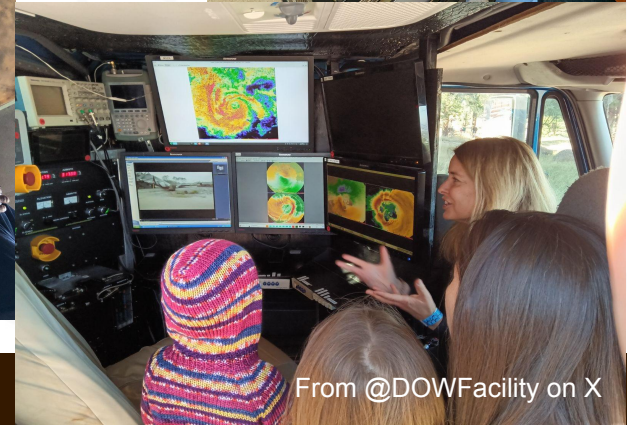


# Purpose of a University Radar

- Observe local weather
- Examine radar hardware
- Radar operations (adjust the PRF, scan strategy, etc.)
- Research
- Public service (gap filling)
- Program promotion
- Community outreach



From Robin Tanamachi



From @DOWFacility on X

# Train the Next Generation Sustainably

- Should we have more collaboration amongst universities?
  - Physical radars or data sharing?
- More support for NSF Community Instruments and Facilities (CIFs)?
- More partnerships with private radar companies?
- Invest in lower cost alternatives?
- Something entirely different?

*“I’ve long thought we should combine our efforts and resources in some way. If you’re asking how we can keep them running, I believe some kind of collaboration might help”*  
- Neil Fox at Mizzou



# Thank you!

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*Contact me for more discussions!*  
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