

## **Mike Bardou**

Mike has served as meteorologist and aviation program leader at the Chicago Weather Forecast Office since the summer of 2010. This office performs a variety of functions including providing forecast information to the aviation, marine and fire weather communities, as well as working closely with emergency management, first responders, and the local media. There is a significant focus on the aviation program with the Chicago airspace being among the busiest in the world. As such, there is a great deal of coordination between the forecasters at the Chicago forecast office and the Center Weather Service Unit at the Chicago Air Route Traffic Control Center as they work to support aviation operations. Prior to arriving at the Chicago office, Mike served as a meteorologist at the Minneapolis Weather Forecast Office, meteorologist-in-training at the Forecast Office in Davenport, IA and as a student volunteer at the Northern Indiana Forecast Office. In addition to having a particular interest in aviation meteorology, Mike appreciates the challenges of forecasting for Lake Michigan and enjoys working with key partners to better understand their forecast needs. Mike earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Meteorology from Valparaiso University in 2003. Mike has been interested in the weather since the drought of 1988 while growing up outside of Cleveland. The extreme heat limited his time outside but allowed him to discover the weather segment during the local news as well as weather programming on cable. His father also provided him with his very own weather station that summer, which included a rain gage, hand held anemometer, liquid barometer and dry erase weather maps!

## **Robb Kaczmarek**

Robb has served as a National Weather Service Aviation Meteorologist at the Chicago Air Route Traffic Control Center in Aurora, Illinois since 2008. This field NWS office is responsible for providing aviation weather support to the FAA, specifically dealing with how weather impacts commercial aircraft traffic flow management in and around the Chicago area. Prior to the NWS, Robb served as a Fire Weather Meteorologist in Missoula, Montana at the Northern Rockies Coordination Center in support of multi-agency fire resource management. He also spent 9 years as an Aviation Meteorologist for United Airlines. His passion relates to how weather impacts all types of aviation operations with particular study of aircraft turbulence and icing. Robb received his Bachelor of Science degree in Atmospheric Science at the University of Washington in 1991.