

Ellis B. Cowling Lifetime Achievement Award – David Gay

For nearly two decades of visionary leadership that transformed the NADP into a globally respected, integrated atmospheric monitoring program and strengthened international collaboration in deposition science.

It is a distinct honor to present Dr. David Gay with the Ellis B. Cowling Lifetime Achievement Award in recognition of nearly two decades of extraordinary leadership as Coordinator of the National Atmospheric Deposition Program (NADP). During his tenure, David guided the program's evolution from a primarily acid rain monitoring network into a globally recognized leader in high-quality atmospheric and deposition science.

Under David's balanced direction, the NADP matured into a truly coordinated national effort. He strengthened integration among multiple monitoring networks, advanced the standardization of measurement protocols, and expanded data collection to encompass a broader suite of chemical and atmospheric parameters. His leadership ensures that NADP data remains scientifically rigorous, policy-relevant, and trusted by stakeholders across sectors.

David's time as Coordinator will be remembered as a period of remarkable growth and resilience. Even in the face of funding uncertainties and emerging environmental challenges, he maintained an unwaveringly "glass half full" vision for the program's future. He fostered collaboration among researchers, policymakers, environmental managers, Tribal organizations, and agency partners to deepen understanding of air pollution to our treasured sensitive ecosystems. He worked tirelessly to support everyone, secure resources, and forge strategic partnerships to sustain and strengthen the networks.

A particularly significant contribution of David's career was his commitment to expanding mercury monitoring both nationally and internationally. Through his leadership and repeated technical support visits to Asia, he helped establish the Asian Pacific Mercury Monitoring Network (APMMN), building enduring scientific partnerships and promoting comparable, high-quality mercury data across the globe. These efforts elevated NADP's international standing and advanced global understanding of mercury deposition.

David also excelled at demonstrating the value of long-term, well-distributed monitoring networks. By analyzing decades of data, he highlighted how single pollution events can affect communities hundreds or even thousands of miles away, underscoring the interconnected nature of atmospheric transport.

Whether addressing agency representatives, Tribal leaders, researchers, students, or members of Congress, David was a trusted and respected voice. He communicated complex scientific findings with clarity and integrity, consistently emphasizing the

importance of collaboration and sustained investment in long-term monitoring. His success stemmed from his deep commitment to listening to the community and proactively responding to emerging environmental concerns.

Even in retirement, we know David will remain a valued resource and friend to the many individuals and institutions he has inspired. His vision, dedication, and steady leadership have left a lasting legacy on the NADP and the broader atmospheric science and monitoring community. Thank you, David, for your hard work, tireless dedication, your contribution to NADP, and lastly for being a trusted friend and mentor. We are proud to present Dr. David Gay with the Ellis B. Cowling Lifetime Achievement Award in recognition of his exceptional and enduring contributions.