

# **Dr. Warren Washington:** **Pioneering Climate Scientist and Advocate**

*By: Anh Mai*

Dr. Warren Washington, a renowned African-American climate scientist, has dedicated his life to advancing the understanding of climate change through atmospheric computer models. With a focus on predicting atmospheric information and exploring various climate change factors, his work has been instrumental in shaping our knowledge of the Earth's climate system. His expertise lies in developing computer models that simulate sea ice, oceanic factors, hydrology, and vegetation, providing valuable insights for climate change research.

His contributions to the scientific community are widely recognized. His book, *Introduction to Three-Dimensional Climate Change* (1986), remains a well-known reference in the field. In 2007, his groundbreaking work earned him the prestigious Nobel Peace Prize, shared with his fellow scientists at the National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR).

Dr. Washington's educational journey began at Oregon State University, where he obtained his Bachelor's degree in physics. He went on to pursue a Master's degree in meteorology from the same institution, and later earned a doctorate in meteorology from Pennsylvania State University. His passion for mentoring the next generation of scientists is evident in his extensive work with graduate and undergraduate students. Notably, he played a crucial role in the UCAR-based SOARS program, mentoring and supporting aspiring scientists from diverse backgrounds.

Beyond his scientific achievements, Dr. Washington has actively participated in leadership and advocacy roles. He served on the President's National Advisory Committee on Oceans and Atmosphere, working closely with several U.S. Presidents, including Reagan, Bush, Clinton, and Carter. Additionally, his involvement as a member and chair of the National Science Board from 1994 to 2006 further exemplified his commitment to advancing scientific progress. He is a member of esteemed organizations such as the National Academy of Engineering, the American Philosophical Society, and the American Meteorological Society (AMS). Additionally, he was recognized with the Dr. Charles Anderson Award for his mentoring and support in diversifying atmospheric science. Other notable honors include the Vollum Award from Reed College and the National Medal of Science in 2010.

Currently, Dr. Washington chairs the US Global Change Research Program, where he continues to guide efforts aimed at understanding and addressing the challenges of global climate change. His pioneering work, leadership in national committees, and commitment to mentorship have established him as a prominent figure in the field of climate science. Driven by his passion and dedication, Dr. Warren Washington's contributions continue to shape our

understanding of climate change, inspire future scientists, and pave the way for a sustainable future.

Some of his publications can be found on his [Google Scholar](#) page.

Source Cited

NCAR Climate & Global Dynamics. Warren Washington. <https://www2.cgd.ucar.edu/staff/wmw/>  
[accessed 18 June 2023]