

Kim Prather

Professor at UC San Diego

La Jolla, CA, US

Kimberly Prather's research focuses on understanding the impact of atmospheric aerosols and their impacts on clouds and climate.

Biography

Prather is a distinguished professor and the Distinguished Chair in Atmospheric Chemistry at Scripps Institution of Oceanography and the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry at UC San Diego. Prather's research focuses on understanding the impact of atmospheric aerosols and their impacts on clouds and climate. Early in her career, she developed a technique known as aerosol time-of-flight mass spectrometry that is widely used in atmospheric field studies around the globe to determine the origin and chemistry of aerosols. A major focus of her research involves understanding how aerosols impact climate, with a major focus on their role in modifying clouds and precipitation processes. Prather is also the director of the Center for Aerosol Impacts on Chemistry of the Environment (CAICE), which focuses on improving our understanding of how aerosol particles impact the environment, air quality, and climate. Born in Santa Rosa, California., Prather received her Ph.D. from the University of California, Davis. She was a postdoctoral fellow at University of California, Berkeley working with Nobel Laureate Yuan T. Lee. She became an assistant professor at University of California, Riverside and then moved to University of California San Diego as a professor in 2001. Prather has authored nearly 200 articles in high level scientific journals. She is the recipient of the Haagen-Smit Clean Air Award, American Chemical Society Analytical Chemistry Arthur F. Findeis Award, the Kenneth Whitby Award, the GAeF Smoluchowski Award, the National Science Foundation Special Creativity Award, the American Society for Mass Spectrometry Award, and the National Science Foundation Young Investigator Award, and the Distinguished Scientist Award from the San Diego section of the American Chemical Society. Prather is an elected fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, American Association for the Advancement of Science, and American Geophysical Union.

Areas of Expertise

Marine Life, Energy and the Environment, California Environment, Earth and Planetary Chemistry, Global Change

Affiliations

Center for Aerosol Impacts on Climate and the Environment, University of Puerto Rico

Education

University of California, Davis

Ph.D.

UC Davis
B.S. Business

Accomplishments

Top 50 Women in the Analytical Sciences, The Analytical Scientist Power List
2016

Haagen-Smit Clean Air Award
2015

ACS San Diego Distinguished Scientist Award
2015

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