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**NOAA National Weather Service Recognizes
Angelo State University as StormReady®**

NOAA National Weather Service officials have recognized Angelo State University in San Angelo, Texas as a StormReady® community. Home to more than 6,600 students and faculty, Angelo State is a member of the Texas Tech University System and is now the fourth university in Texas to achieve StormReady status.

"StormReady encourages communities to take a proactive approach to improving local hazardous weather operations and public awareness in partnership with their local National Weather Service office," said Hector Guerrero, warning and coordination meteorologist of the National Weather Service forecast office in San Angelo. Guerrero will present university officials with a recognition letter and special StormReady signs during a ceremony at 10 A.M. on May 10 at University Center Nasworthy Suite (Room 203-204).

The nationwide community preparedness program uses a grassroots approach to help communities develop plans to handle local severe weather and flooding threats. The program is voluntary and provides communities with clear-cut advice from the local National Weather Service forecast office and state and local emergency managers. The program began in 1999 with seven communities in the Tulsa, Okla. area. Today, there are more than 1,600 StormReady communities.

To be recognized as StormReady, a community must establish a 24-hour warning point and emergency operations center; have more than one way to receive severe weather forecasts and warnings and to alert the public; create a system that monitors local weather conditions; promote the importance of public readiness through community seminars; and, develop a formal hazardous weather plan, which includes training severe weather spotters and holding emergency exercises.

The StormReady program is part of NOAA National Weather Service's working partnership with the International Association of Emergency Managers and the National Emergency Management Association. The StormReady recognition will expire in three years, after which the university will go through a renewal process.

The National Weather Service provides a network of 122 Weather Forecast Offices serving the nation with vital weather warnings, forecasts and climate services in air, land and sea.

NOAA understands and predicts changes in the Earth's environment, from the depths of the ocean to the surface of the sun, and conserves and manages our coastal and marine resources. Visit <http://www.noaa.gov>.

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On the internet:

National Weather Service Southern Region: <http://www.srh.noaa.gov>

StormReady program: <http://www.stormready.noaa.gov>

StormReady® is a registered trademark used by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.