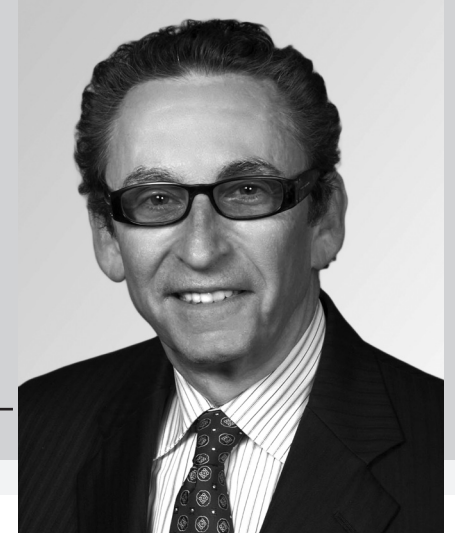




DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARDS

Joel N. Myers '61, '63g, '71g



To Joel N. Myers for his limitless contribution to the science of meteorology and his generous support of Penn State.

Named the “most reliable man in the forecasting business” by *The New York Times*, Joel Myers was flattered, but not completely surprised. Fascinated with weather since childhood—from snow watching at age three to sawing through his parents’ attic for his homemade, rooftop weather station and calling in observations to the National Weather Service and TV stations by age 14—Myers always knew meteorology was his destiny.

Hailing from Philadelphia with no-nonsense parents who told him Penn State was the only university they could afford, Myers applied only to Penn State. Luckily for him, the University had one of the best meteorological programs in the world—and still does. Myers earned his bachelor’s, master’s and doctorate degrees at University Park.

“I got a terrific education at Penn State with great mentorship from faculty and graduate students and had the opportunity to do some meaningful research,” he said.

As a first-year graduate student, Myers began to teach an upper-level meteorology course and continued to do so for 21 years. His students knew an “automatic A” was on the line if they could beat his forecasts. “Over the years, maybe 15 students out of 800 or so beat me,” Myers quipped.

It was in 1962, during graduate school, when Myers’ passion for weather forecasting and his entrepreneurial spirit collided—the perfect storm. He developed business ideas at his kitchen table, called in daily weather reports to his first clients from a phone booth on campus, and then, as business grew, rented his first office space—a rooftop storage closet in Deike Building. AccuWeather was brewing.

Today, Myers is founder, president, and chairman of AccuWeather, the world’s largest source of weather forecasts and warnings, providing forecasts to more than 1.5 billion people. Headquartered in State College with offices across the globe, AccuWeather employs over 500 people.

In 54 years of business, AccuWeather has seen revenue growth in all but two years. “We’ve done that through innovation, creativity a great entrepreneurial spirit, and

an incredible, loyal group of employees who worked together to make my dream a reality.” Myers said.

Through numerous business partnerships—built over decades—AccuWeather serves more than 240 of the Fortune 500 companies. AccuWeather also provides forecasts to thousands of businesses worldwide, and 1,900 radio and television stations as well as newspapers.

Living up to its reputation as the most accurate source of weather forecasts and warnings in the world, AccuWeather saves lives and protects property through its Superior Accuracy™. “Over the years, we’ve saved tens of thousands of lives and saved tens of billions of dollars for companies,” Myers said. “In Hurricane Katrina alone, AccuWeather saved as many as 10,000 lives, receiving special recognition from Congress.”

Recognizing Myers’ success, *Entrepreneur* magazine included him in the Encyclopedia of Entrepreneurs as one of the greatest in American history. He shares the pages with the likes of Henry Ford, Thomas Edison and Bill Gates. A catalyst of change, Myers has delivered hundreds of speeches including a recent TED Talk. He’s been an invited speaker at the New York Academy of Sciences, was inducted into the

Pennsylvania Broadcasters’ Hall of Fame, and has testified to Congress on numerous occasions.

Myers served on the Penn State Board of Trustees for 33 years, from 1981 to 2014. He brought a unique perspective to the board as an alumnus, professor, businessman and innovator, offering his “town and gown” insight and demonstrating his lifelong commitment to education. He now holds the title emeritus trustee.

Myers generously funded the Joel N. Myers Weather Center in the Department of Meteorology, providing students with state-of-the-art forecasting technology. The walk-in sundial at the Arboretum, the Nittany Lion Inn sundial, and the weathervane atop Beaver Stadium—one of world’s largest—are all gifts from Myers. Myers’ latest philanthropic endeavor is the Parents’ Resource Center, which he founded in 2015. Located in Center County, he hopes to expand its impact statewide and then nationally.

Myers is a life member of the Penn State Alumni Association and lives in State College. He has seven children: Daniel '91, Bradford '90, Sharon '98, Adrienne, Erika, Drew and Lachlan; and eight grandchildren: Harry, Laura, Benjamin, Alexandra, Rose, Jackson, Katie and John.