

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI

Steven A. Root is Chief Analytics Officer and Senior VP of Sales at AccuWeather, Inc. Spanning more than 40 years, Root's efforts have focused on designing products and services to solve highly localized, site-specific environmental problems. His insights into weather conditions have been applied as inputs into complex models predicting hourly energy demand and consumer buying behavior. Mr. Root has directly served nearly every natural gas, power utility, and many top Fortune 500 companies across North America. As a graduate



student in the late 1970's Root pioneered the idea that computerization could be used to create accurate weather forecasts. His research into recurring weather patterns and electronic hardware design allowed him to fabricate a hand-held, weather forecasting computer, which was later patented. This early device and its software formed the basis for computer-generated color display systems now universally used in television weather presentations worldwide. During the past fifteen years, Root has co-invented and patented new systems that present location-specific content to end-users, and today there have been more than 40 patents granted worldwide. Root and a team from his previous company, WeatherBank, Inc. were employed by the 2002 Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City to provide site-specific weather forecasts for four of the five outdoor venues. For three years prior to the games, Root worked with personnel from the local National Weather Service and with the University of Utah's Meteorology Department, to build forecasts specific to the games. The 2002 games achieved the highest forecast accuracy of any American Winter Olympics. Mr. Root serves as president of two professional organizations: The American Weather & Climate Industry Association (a consortium of leading private weather companies), and the National Council of Industrial Meteorologists. Root has earned B.S. (1976) and M.S. (1980) degrees in Meteorology from the University of Utah, and is a professionally certified consulting meteorologist. In 2010, the American Meteorological Society recognized Root with their Award for Outstanding Contribution to the Advance of Applied Meteorology; and in 2012, elected Root as a Fellow of the American Meteorological Society.