Dave embodies the essence of caraid in his work—he is passionate, resilient, humorous, and deeply committed to innovation and trusted data accessibility. Through his transformative leadership, he developed the GeoCollaborate technology, fostering real-time synchronous collaboration and data sharing across platforms for ocean observations. Dave knew Ru Morrison and recalls a conversation where Ru said to Dave after a demonstration of GeoCollaborate, “You really have something here”. That boost in confidence helped development continue and despite facing financial challenges, Dave's unwavering dedication has brought together diverse communities, particularly underserved groups, showcasing his commitment to making crucial data accessible. His voluntary creation of engaging videos further highlights his commitment to transparency and reaching broader audiences, exemplifying a leader who inspires excellence and brings people together through humor, integrity, and grace.

Congratulations, Dave!

The word “Caraid” is a Scottish Gaelic word, meaning “care” or “love” and is pronounced like “courage.”

Dr. Ru Morrison was the first recipient of the award and the inspiration for its creation that honors both Ru's collaborative spirit and his love for his Scottish homeland. The attributes of Caraid - caring and the courage to do what matters - is what makes IOOS work.