Sen Chiao, Ph.D., is a professor in the Department of Interdisciplinary Studies at Howard University. He is also the PI and the director of the NOAA Cooperative Science Center in Atmospheric Sciences and Meteorology (NCAS-M). A veteran leader in atmospheric science research and education, Chiao is known for advancing interdisciplinary collaboration and promoting diversity in the geosciences. Since joining Howard in 2021, he has expanded the university's research capacity in climate change, created new academic courses, and launched initiatives including the first urban atmospheric boundary observation site in Washington, D.C.

His main research interests focus on understanding weather and climate extremes increased frequency, duration, and intensity driven by climate change. His ultimate goal is to advance our understanding of fundamental science in the areas of weather and climate, hydrometeorology, and their linkages to global climate change.

Before joining Howard, Chiao served in several key academic roles at San José State University, including chair of the Department of Meteorology and Climate Science and director of the NASA-funded Center for Applied Atmospheric Research and Education. He led efforts to develop new academic programs, secure more than $7 million in research funding, and implement high-performance computing infrastructure. His research has addressed topics such as atmospheric rivers, tropical cyclones, wildfires, and the impacts of air quality on public health.

Chiao's work has earned him numerous awards and fellowships, including recognition by NASA and appointments to advisory committees for the U.S. Department of Energy and the National Academies.

A strong advocate for equitable access to science, technology, engineering and math education, Chiao has mentored dozens of students and postdoctoral researchers from underrepresented backgrounds. His leadership continues to shape the future of atmospheric science through academic excellence, high-impact research and strategic vision.