

CENIC

Newsletter

August 2026

In this newsletter, you'll find information on California's research and education communities in action via the high-performance network and services CENIC provides; how your colleagues are using these services; and information about networking-related events, funds, new programs, and awards.

CENIC NEWS



CENIC's Leadership in Advancing Broadband Access and Digital Opportunity in California

For 30 years, CENIC has built and operated one of the world's leading research and education networks, connecting California's universities, community colleges, K–12 schools, research laboratories, libraries, and other educational institutions through the California Research and Education Network (CalREN).

This expanding body of work positioned CENIC to play a central role in California's Broadband for All initiative, and in 2021, the California Department of Technology selected CENIC to serve as the Third-Party Administrator (TPA) for the California Middle-Mile Broadband Initiative (MMBI), one of the nation's most ambitious public broadband infrastructure projects.

Now, as part of the CA Middle-Mile Broadband Initiative's planned evolution into its operational phase, the State has selected an Operating TPA, Skyline Technology Solutions, to assume responsibility for the network's day-to-day operations. [READ THE ARTICLE >](#)

The CENIC AI Resource Powers Diverse Disciplines at CENIC Member Campuses

At the turn of the millennium, network specialists were already considering how fiber-based networks might function as a continent-sized backplane, connecting far-flung compute, storage, and I/O resources at the speed of light.



These musings included CENIC's California Research and Education Network (CalREN), a multi-tier high-performance fiber-based network comprising more than 54,000 miles of CENIC-managed fiber, of which some 8,000 miles form the CENIC-owned network backbone. For the last three decades, CENIC and CalREN have placed CENIC member institutions at the forefront of the distributed networking revolution.

Learn how researchers at non-R1 institutions or those who need only a handful of GPUs can benefit from CENIC AIR, which can catapult their work to the next level and enable them to collaborate and compete with peers from larger, better-resourced institutions. [READ THE ARTICLE >](#)



Experts Review Developments in Federal Funding Landscape at CENIC 2026 Conference

It has become increasingly difficult to keep up with technology policy and federal funding issues in recent years. However, those who attended the 2026 CENIC biennial conference,

The Right Connection, heard from top policy analysts stressing that building and sustaining relationships with representatives and agencies in D.C. remains as important as ever.

"SHLB's work is about ensuring that community anchor institutions have a seat at the table to help people understand the importance of sustainable, affordable, and reliable access to the Internet," said Kristen Corra, Policy Counsel for the Schools, Health, and Libraries Broadband Coalition (SHLB).

Corra was joined on the panel by Philip Neufeld, Executive Officer for Strategic Research and Policy Analysis at Fresno Unified School District; Beverly Sutherland, President of EdTechnologyFunds, Inc., a leader in promoting equitable broadband policy and access; Luis Wong, CEO of the California K-12 High Speed Network and the California Library Connect project; and moderator Rachelle Chong, a leading national regulatory communications expert with extensive experience in both federal and state telecommunications policy and advocacy." [READ THE ARTICLE >](#)

Celebrating Dr. Ben Izadi's Leading Role in the CENIC and Cypress College Student Internship Program

Now in its 15th year, the CENIC internship program has given more than 100 students hands-on training and real experience in advanced networking, developed in partnership with Cypress College's Professor Ben Izadi, who was instrumental in its success.



Interns gain direct experience in CENIC's Network Operations Center (NOC), supporting the California Research and Education Network (CalREN) and the broader services in CENIC's network catalog. CalREN is one of the world's most advanced research and education networks. It comprises an 8,000-mile backbone and hub sites, plus thousands of CENIC-managed circuits totaling over 54,000 network miles, serving more than 20 million people across California. [READ THE ARTICLE >](#)



CA Teleconnect Fund Recertification Reminder for Schools, Libraries, and Community Colleges

The [California Public Utilities Commission](#) (CPUC) requires that all schools, libraries, and community colleges in California recertify every

five years to maintain their CTF discount on eligible monthly telecommunications services.

Current CTF participants have each been assigned a recertification expiration date for their

existing application. To avoid any interruption in CTF discounts, organizations should log into the [eCAP portal](#) to verify their expiration date and complete the recertification process before their application expires.

Have you logged into eCAP yet? Or need help navigating the CTF process? Please email CTFHelp@cpuc.ca.gov as accounts have been made for all existing CTF applicants. Check the [CPUC website](#) for more information on the program.

**CENIC Welcomes San Diego
Supercomputer Center Director Frank
Würthwein to Board of Directors as
Science Advisor**



CENIC is delighted to welcome Frank Würthwein as Science Advisor to the CENIC Board of Directors, starting in the 2026-27 fiscal year.

Frank is the Director of the San Diego Supercomputer Center and also holds faculty appointments at UC San Diego in the Physics Department and the Halicioğlu Data Science Institute. After receiving his PhD from Cornell in 1995, he held appointments at Caltech, MIT, and Fermi National Laboratory before joining the UC San Diego faculty in 2003.

Würthwein's research focuses on globally distributed compute and data systems (e.g., the Open Science Grid, the National Research Platform, and the Open Science Data Federation), experimental particle physics, and distributed high-throughput computing. [READ THE ARTICLE >](#)



**Learn About the Iron Horse Sensor
Agriculture Test-bed on CENIC
AIR. New Video Short!**

What if the soil in the remote and hilly terrain of a vineyard could regularly deliver data on its moisture and health? And what if quickly

gathered data from every cluster of grapes could tell a vintner when it is time to harvest them? Sensor technology linked to CENIC AIR makes all of that possible today.

That challenge is being addressed by an innovative demonstration project fueled by CENIC and its collaborative partners: a novel model of precision agriculture launched on the site of Iron Horse Vineyards, near Sebastopol, California. Working with second-

generation vineyards owner Joy Sterling, a leading proponent of broadband connectivity for the nation's agricultural fields, CENIC is serving as the primary convenor of the varied expertise needed to realize this project.

Iron Horse Vineyards will serve as a test-bed living laboratory for agricultural research and education alongside faculty and students from CENIC member institutions including UC San Diego and its San Diego Supercomputer Center (SDSC), UC Agriculture and Natural Resources (UC ANR), Sonoma State University, and Santa Rosa Junior College, and other private entities. [WATCH THE VIDEO >](#)

NETWORKING NEWS

- [UC partners with US DoE on AI-enabled Scientific Workflows via Genesis Mission](#)
- [ESnet's portable private cellular unit networks remote sensors in the field](#)
- [Universal Service Fund Must Support Rural Broadband, says NRECA](#)
- [Commerce Targets December 2026 to Reopen Digital Equity Competitive Grants](#)
- [CSU Artificial Intelligence Educational Innovations Challenge Award Showcases](#)
- [Educators Share Mixed Reactions to Claude for Teachers](#)
- [California launches first-in-the-nation AI literacy initiative with SDSU leadership](#)
- [CCC bachelor's degrees expand to include cybersecurity, cloud computing](#)
- [Ransomware Attacks on K-12 Trend Down, Higher Ed Trend Up in 2026](#)

EVENTS & PROGRAM OPPORTUNITIES

- [Voices from the Fiber Frontier, October 17, Online](#)
- [CA Library Association Conference, October 23-25, Riverside, CA](#)

- [UbuntuNet Alliance Women's Hackathon 2025, October 27–29, Harare](#)
- [NAIRR AI Education Fellowship at CRA, Apply by November 1](#)
- [JupyterCon 2025, November 3-5, San Diego, CA](#)
- [NSF Funding: Unlocking Dataset Value for AI-Enabled Scientific Discovery, November 6 Deadline](#)
- [CITE Annual Conference 2025, November 18-20, Sacramento, CA](#)
- [SC26: November 16–21, St. Louis, MO](#)
- [Internet2 TechEX, December 8-12, Denver, CO](#)

About CENIC | www.cenic.org

CENIC connects California to the world — advancing education and research statewide by providing the world-class network essential for innovation, collaboration, and economic growth. This nonprofit organization operates the California Research and Education Network (CalREN), a high-capacity network designed to meet the unique requirements of over 20 million users, including the vast majority of K-20 students together with educators, researchers, and others at vital public-serving institutions. CENIC's Charter Associates are part of the world's largest education system; they include the California K-12 system, California Community Colleges, the California State University system, California's Public Libraries, the University of California system, Stanford, Caltech, USC, and the Naval Postgraduate School. CENIC also provides connectivity to leading-edge institutions and industry research organizations around the world, serving the public as a catalyst for a vibrant California.

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