



April 2026

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

THE RIGHT CONNECTION CENIC 2026

The 2026 Biennial Conference: Awards, Highlights, What's Next

CENIC welcomed over 300 attendees to our 2026 biennial conference, [The Right Connection](#), held from March 29–April 30 in Monterey, CA. Thanks to the hard work of the Program Committee, made up of participants from every segment of the CENIC membership, the program was exciting, informative, and celebrated the accomplishments of all of your institutions while looking ahead to the future of network-enabled research and education.

Highlights include the keynotes and plenaries, insightful panel discussions, the 2026 Innovations in Networking and CENIC AIR awards, updates on CENIC's California Research and Education Network (CalREN), national and global network projects, and the always valuable "hallway track": on-the-spot discussions between attendees that facilitate useful and sometimes award-winning collaborations.

In the coming weeks, attendees can anticipate our post-conference survey, where you can share your feedback with us and help make the 2028 conference even better.

And of course, everyone can look forward to many presentations, plenaries, and panel discussions being posted to the [CENIC YouTube channel](#).

Congratulations to everyone who made this year's conference such a rousing success, and we look forward to seeing you all in Monterey in 2028!



2026 Innovations in Networking and CENIC AIR Awards

Winners of the 2026 Innovations in Networking and [CENIC AIR](#) Awards include the following, and more information about each can be found at the CENIC website.

CENIC 2026 Christine Haska Award for Distinguished Service to UC San Diego Professor Emeritus Larry Smarr: [LEARN MORE >](#)

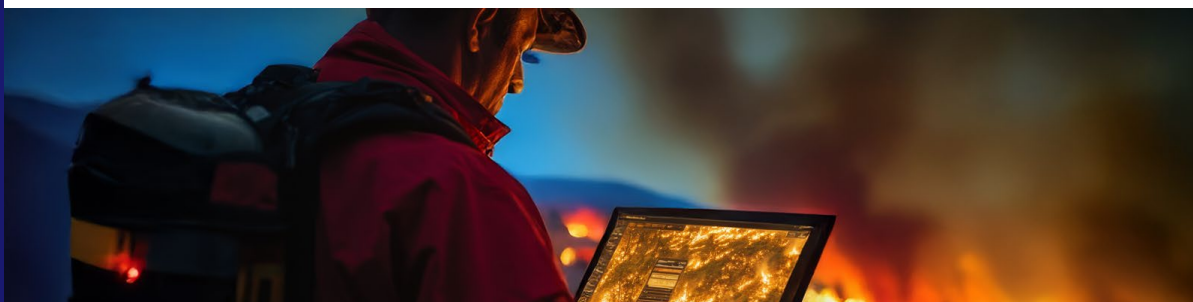
CENIC 2026 Innovations in Networking Award for Network Partner to University of Hawai'i's David Lassner and Team: [LEARN MORE >](#)

CENIC 2026 Innovations in Network Award for Experimental Applications to Caltech's Harvey Newman and His Team: [LEARN MORE >](#)

2026 CENIC AIR Pioneering Contributions Advancing Networking and AI Award to Joy Sterling, Partner and CEO of Iron Horse Vineyards: [LEARN MORE >](#)

2026 CENIC AIR Award for Innovative Technical Design & Instructional Support to Frank Wuerthwein & UC San Diego Team: [LEARN MORE >](#)

2026 CENIC AIR Award for Engagement to Kendra Ard and Ed Clark of the California State University Chancellor's Chief Information Office: [LEARN MORE >](#)



CENIC Sentinel: a Disaster Recovery Solution To Ensure CENIC Members Remain Connected During Emergencies

CENIC's members rely on their wired circuits through CalREN to provide connectivity to the Internet and to other members. When disasters (such as wildfires) strike—or sometimes simply construction mishaps—these events can cause wired services to go

down, and the resulting downtime to members can last days or even weeks.

To ensure that our members stay connected when it matters most, CENIC has developed CENIC Sentinel, a disaster recovery solution that can be temporarily deployed to CENIC members to restore their access to CalREN quickly during extended outages, and thus keeping our members connected to one another and the world without interruption. [READ THE ARTICLE >](#)



NETWORKING NEWS

- [‘More crop per drop’: New UC Riverside irrigation robot is adorable — and revolutionary](#)
- [CSU Releases Findings of Most Comprehensive Survey on AI in Higher Ed](#)
- [Tribe, REIT plan AI and energy campus in northern California](#)
- [San Jose City Council Makes GovAI Coalition a Nonprofit](#)
- [Community Anchor Institutions: The Real Engines of Digital Equity](#)
- [California Activates Nation’s Largest Middle-Mile Network, Connecting Tribal, Rural Areas](#)
- [What does it mean to learn with AI?](#)
- [CSU’s Emerging Research Institutions Seek to Expand Research Capacity](#)



EVENTS & PROGRAM OPPORTUNITIES

- [NSF Finders Foundry: K12 Workforce Development Webinar, Apr 29, Online](#)

- [EDUCAUSE Cybersecurity Conference, Apr 28-30, Anaheim, CA](#)
- [UbuntuNet 20th Annual General Meeting, May 29, Mombasa Kenya](#)
- [NANOG 97, June 1-3, Bellevue, WA](#)
- [CCC Online Teaching Conference, June 23-25, Anaheim, CA](#)
- [APAN62, August 10-14, Auckland, NZ](#)
- [Quilt In-Person Fall Member Meeting, Sep 22-24, Philadelphia, PA](#)
- [EDUCAUSE Annual Conference, Sep 29-Oct 2, 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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