

# CENIC Newsletter

June 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.



## **Network Strategies to Predict, Plan, and Prepare for Disasters**

When disasters occur, whether natural or man-made, they can seem random and unpredictable and often damage the very infrastructure needed during recovery.

However, for those who manage research and education (R&E) networks and those they serve, disaster response means proactive planning to ensure those critical connections and services are maintained when needed most. CENIC's experience with disaster recovery in its thirty-year history was the



foundation for a panel of network experts convened at the CENIC 2026 biennial conference, [The Right Connection](#).

The panel was moderated and led by Louis Fox, Chief Executive Officer of [CENIC](#), and featured Roger Blake, President and CEO of [Merit Network](#), the nonprofit R&E network for Michigan's public universities; Garret Yoshimi, Vice President of Information Technology and Chief Information Officer at [University of Hawai'i](#); and Marla Meehl, Integrated Network Services Manager and Assistant Director of Enterprise IT with the [University Corporation for Atmospheric Research](#) (UCAR) which manages the [National Center for Atmospheric Research](#), or NCAR. [READ THE ARTICLE >](#)

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## Opening the Digital Future for the Next Generation

Solving the problems currently facing humanity requires engaging everyone, no matter who or where they may be, to combine varied ideas and experiences to find solutions.

And advanced networks and the services they make possible can create even more productive ways to make that happen.

Danny Allen, Chief Executive Officer of djallen LLC, renowned for his international work on strategic partnerships with [SAP Labs](#), agrees. During a panel discussion by thought leaders at the CENIC 2026 biennial conference, [The Right Connection](#), Allen stated plainly, "The digital divide is at heart an economic one. The only way to solve big problems is through engaging diverse people to work together in teams. This means diverse in thought, experience, and perspectives, as well as people who are more economically challenged. We must look at how we use these technologies as a team to solve problems in ways that benefit everyone." [READ THE ARTICLE >](#)

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## California at the Vanguard of AI-Enabled Education for Everyone with CENIC AIR

CENIC's biennial conference [The Right Connection](#) began with a statement by Keynote Speaker Frank Wuerthwein, director of [UC San Diego's San Diego Supercomputer Center](#),

that was equal parts stark and optimistic. The first part observed that the revolution in education promised by big data, computing, and AI was such that "those colleges that do not adopt the AI-plus-compute model [in education] will go bankrupt."



The second, optimistic part was that the [CENIC AI Resource](#) (CENIC AIR)—a CENIC initiative available to its member institutions in the state’s K-20 research and education systems—makes California uniquely well-prepared to meet this challenge and to fundamentally shape the world of the future. [READ THE ARTICLE >](#)

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## **CENIC Biennial Conference The Right Connection Presentations and Panels Available on YouTube**

Review and share conference content that inspired you and your organization! Sixteen presentations and panels by some of the most renowned research and education networking experts are now available on [YouTube](#), along with [slides](#) for those and other presentations and panel discussions.

Conference Playlist on YouTube



- [New Cisco Report: Most campus and branch networks aren't ready for AI traffic](#)
- [Merit Network's National Distributed Network Telescope Project](#)
- [For water use, AI data centers a drop in the bucket](#)
- [CSU Research Cultivates Sustainable Future for Agriculture](#)
- [NSF investing in secure open-source ecosystems](#)
- [What Higher Ed Leaders Can Learn from CSU's ChatGPT Edu Rollout](#)
- [UC Merced Asks: Can AI help predict and manage drought?](#)
- [How SDSC and CENIC Are Bringing AI Infrastructure to California's Classrooms](#)
- [CSU Delegation Shares University Priorities in Washington, DC](#)



# EVENTS & PROGRAM OPPORTUNITIES

- [NSF Pathways to Enable Secure Open-Source Ecosystems webinar, June 23](#)
- [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](#)
- [CITE Annual Conference 2025, November 18-20, Sacramento, CA](#)
- [SC25: November 16–21, St. Louis, MO](#)
- [Internet2 TechEX, December 8-12, Denver, CO](#)

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## **About CENIC | [www.cenic.org](http://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.