

Committee on Research and Education (CREN) at the National Center for Supercomputing Applications

Charge

The National Center for Supercomputing Applications (NCSA) provides an important resource for the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC), with particular relevance for campus units engaged in, or impacted by, research and education activities around large-scale computation and big data.

To ensure that it functions as an integral part of the research and education enterprise at UIUC, NCSA should establish an ad hoc Committee on Research and Education (CREN) to provide advice and counsel to the NCSA Director on how to engage effectively with faculty and researchers on the campus, to develop and organize a highly integrated set of research and education activities at NCSA.

To that end, the CREN is charged with making recommendations on how NCSA can

- provide a rich and inviting atmosphere that draws leading faculty and researchers from across the campus, and fosters interdisciplinary and innovative research in all aspects of computing and data;
- become a functional, collaborative choice for faculty and staff for innovative research into high performance computing and big data activities;
- set strategic goals and specific directions, leveraging NCSA resources for improving the UIUC educational environment, and for further developing programs in scientific computing, computational science and engineering, and data analysis;
- complement other major UIUC interdisciplinary research institutes, such as Beckman, IGB, CSL;
- organize a long term advisory structure for NCSA that would help guide the Director of NCSA in areas such as enhancement of NCSA's connection with the local campus as well as national and international research communities after the CREN makes its final recommendations.

These recommendations should be made to the Director of NCSA within 3 - 6 months of the constitution of this committee and should include recommendations of specific goals and milestones for NCSA to consider over the next 1, 2 and 5 years, as well as highlight any perceived risks and opportunities.

Membership

The CREN will be chaired by the NCSA Associate Director for Computational Research and Education Programs and co-chaired by the NCSA Chief Scientist. The CREN will be comprised of a diverse set of faculty and staff from within NCSA as well as from campus colleges, research institutes, centers and labs that are involved in research and educational interests related to NCSA's strategic vision. The committee is expected to reach out to a larger cross-section of stakeholders in developing its recommendations.