Advanced Cyberinfrastructure Research & Education Facilitators: Overview

Henry Neeman, University of Oklahoma
Director, OU Supercomputing Center for Education & Research (OSCER)
Assistant Vice President, Information Technology - Research Strategy Advisor
Associate Professor, College of Engineering
Adjunct Faculty, School of Computer Science
ACI-REF Virtual Residency 2015
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Let’s Introduce Ourselves!

- Let’s go around the room.
- Say your name, your institution, your role, and why you wanted to attend the ACI-REF Virtual Residency.
  - What do you hope to get out of this week?
Outline

- This is an experiment!
- Advanced Cyberinfrastructure Research & Education Facilitators
- National Science Foundation’s Campus Cyberinfrastructure Programs
- You’re Next …
This is an Experiment!

- Everything about this week is exciting and new.
- You are the first cohort of what we want to be a national program.
- This means that you are helping us to pioneer a new way of developing the next generation workforce.
You Voted with Your Feet

- We thought most of the interest would be in learning how to be a Campus CI Engineer.
- But it turned out that a big chunk of the national need is learning how to help researchers do the computing- and data-intensive parts of their research.
- Since we do both here, we can teach both here.
  - So we can serve both sides of the national need.
… can make this Virtual Residency a success.

- Ask questions -- the only dumb question is the one you don’t ask.
- Volunteer your ideas and experiences.
- Ultimately, it’s you who will have to be in charge, not us.
Advanced
Cyberinfrastructure
Research & Education
Facilitators
What is an ACI-REF?

- Advanced Cyberinfrastructure Research & Education Facilitator (term invented by Miron Livny)
- Work with users -- researchers and educators -- to help them improve their research and/or education productivity using advanced cyberinfrastructure.
- Typically, one or a few ACI-REFs have responsibility for an entire institution, or multiple institutions.
- Some ACI-REFs are:
  - faculty or former faculty;
  - postdocs or former postdocs;
  - research staff or former research staff;
  - IT professionals;
  - graduate or undergraduate students.
A Little Background

- In 2013, a team of 13 institutions led by Clemson U submitted an 8-figure proposal on this issue, to provide multiple ACI-REFs at each institution over a 4 year period.

- The proposal also included funding for advanced networking.
OU’s Piece

- OU’s piece included some extra components:
  - a component about EPSCoR jurisdictions, shared with HI, SC, UT;
  - a Virtual Residency to teach how to be an ACI-REF.
Ah, if only ....

- Unfortunately, the NSF wasn’t able to fully fund that proposal. The team ended up reducing down to 6 institutions for 2 years, and no advanced networking.

- "Phase 1:"
  - Clemson U
  - Harvard U
  - U Hawai’i
  - U Southern California
  - U Utah
  - U Wisconsin

- "Phase 2:"
  - Arizona State U
  - Emory U
  - Ohio Supercomputer Center
  - Stanford U
  - Sunshine State Education & Research Computing Alliance (SSERCA)
  - **U Oklahoma**
  - U Washington
National Science Foundation’s Campus Cyberinfrastructure Programs
In 2012-13, the NSF had a program called “Campus Cyberinfrastructure - Networking Infrastructure & Engineering” (CC-NIE).

- Two subprograms: One for deploying networking equipment, one for innovative networking research.
- OU, OSU, Oklahoma Innovation Institute, Langston U, OneNet: “OneOklahoma Friction Free Network”

In 2014, that was followed by “Campus Cyberinfrastructure - Infrastructure, Innovation & Engineering” (CC*IIE).

- Several new subprograms, including “Campus CI Engineer.”
So …

- OU submitted a proposal to the Campus CI Engineer subprogram:
  - “A Model for Advanced Cyberinfrastructure Research and Education Facilitators”
  - $400K
  - Highlights the relationship between OU and the ACI-REF project.
- OU is the only institution that is all of:
  - ACI-REF Phase 2 (so already engaged)
  - EPSCoR (and was to have co-lead the ACI-REF EPSCoR thrust)
  - CC-NIE awardee (so need a Campus CI Engineer already)
Objectives

- **Data-Intensive Research Facilitation:** Via Software Defined Networking (SDN) across OFFN, facilitate end-to-end management, by researchers, of high bandwidth/high performance data flows through a distributed hierarchy of open standards tools, providing researchers with a new layer of transparency into network transport at OU, among OneOCII institutions, and with ACI-REF members.

- **Oklahoma ACI-REF project:** Lead and facilitate adoption of the ACI-REF approach across Oklahoma, leveraging extant and emerging capabilities within OneOCII.

- **National training regime:** Provide a “virtual residency” program for Campus CI Engineers and other ACI-REFs, open to not only CC*IIE awardees and ACI-REF members but any institution that needs.

- **Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) Sites/Supplements:** Foster undergraduate research at OU via a culture of integrating REU sites and supplements into Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics (STEM) research, including by all research themes on this proposed CC*IIE project.
Success!

Reviewer comments

“This energetic, detailed and ambitious proposal from the University of Oklahoma deserves the highest priority for support. … There are no major weaknesses in the proposal and many strengths. …”

“The broader impacts are nicely defined in terms of … the idea of a residency program …. A residency program and enhancement of undergraduate research are strong enhancements to the proposal. …”

“This is one of the better proposals regarding … additional outreach via the budgeted virtual residency program. …”
Virtual Residency
Lots of Interest

- For the proposal, we had 33 institutions in 23 states and territories that expressed interest in the residency workshops, including 3 Minority Serving Institutions, 19 institutions in 13 EPSCoR states and 7 non-PhD-granting institutions.

- We had applications from over 65 people at 50 institutions in 31 states and territories.

- The final headcount is 52 (29 onsite, 23 remote) from 40 institutions in 26 states and territories, including 19 institutions in 12 EPSCoR states, 5 Minority Serving Institutions and 5 non-PhD-granting institutions.
Agenda

- You’ve got a copy of the agenda in front of you.
- Everything on it is subject to change without notice:
  - We may drop some of the sessions.
  - We may add sessions that we think are needed.
- You’re going to help us learn how to help you learn.
What Are We Here to Accomplish?

- Learn how to work with researchers who are using CI.
  - Learn how to talk to them.
  - Learn how to help them.
- Learn how to contribute to, and ultimately to lead, grant proposals.
  - Some of you already know how to do this, so you’ll help us help the rest to learn.
- Science DMZ Track
  - Learn how to manage a Science DMZ.
- Computational Science & Engineering Track
  - Get some practice working with researchers.
What Aren’t We Trying to Do?

- On the Computational & Data-enabled Science & Engineering track, we **AREN’T** trying to teach you a lot of technical content.
  - You can learn that from other sources.
- Instead, our goal is to teach you the **PROFESSION** of ACI-REF.
What Are We Really Here For?

- We’re really here to prepare for an upcoming transition to:
  - more need for this kind of skilled workforce, but
  - fewer people who know how to do it, with
  - no mechanism to prepare a sufficiently large cohort.
- Some of us here already know how to do this.
  - But it took a very long time to learn on our own.
  - To keep up with demand, the community needs us to streamline the process so that new ACI-REFs can become fully productive quickly.
- You’re the leaders of tomorrow.
You’re Next ...

http://freapp.us/apps/android/com.im.uncle.sam/
A Growing Need, a Growing Breed

- The Coalition for Academic Scientific Computation (CASC) is a group of most of the mid-to-large academic and government CI centers in the US.
- When OU joined CASC in 2004, there were roughly 35 member institutions.
- Now there are 82.
- So the growth has been significant.
- There are a total of about 300 institutions on the US News rankings of STEM graduate programs.
- So the growth potential is substantial.
Get Ready to Be in Charge

- Baby Boomers: born 1946-1964 (ages 50-69)
- Generation X: 1965-1984 (ages 31-50)
- Millenials: roughly ages 10-30

“Roughly 10,000 Baby Boomers will turn 65 today, and about 10,000 more will cross that threshold every day for the next 19 years.” -- Pew Research Center, 2010

http://www.pewresearch.org/daily-number/baby-boomers-retire/

Who do you think is going to have to take up the mantle they’re currently carrying?
OK Supercomputing Symposium 2015

2003 Keynote: Peter Freeman
NSF
Computer & Information Science & Engineering Assistant Director

2004 Keynote: Sangtae Kim
NSF Shared Cyberinfrastructure Division Director

2005 Keynote: Walt Brooks
NASA Advanced Supercomputing Division Director

2006 Keynote: Dan Atkins
Head of NSF’s Office of Cyberinfrastructure

2007 Keynote: Jay Boisseau
Director Texas Advanced Computing Center U. Texas Austin

2008 Keynote: José Munoz
Deputy Office Director/Senior Scientific Advisor NSF Office of Cyberinfrastructure

2009 Keynote: Douglass Post
Chief Scientist US Dept of Defense HPC Modernization Program

2010 Keynote: Horst Simon
Deputy Director Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory

2011 Keynote: Barry Schneider
Program Manager National Science Foundation

2012 Keynote: Thom Dunning
Director National Center for Supercomputing Applications

2013 Keynote: John Shalf
Dept Head CS Lawrence Berkeley Lab CTO, NERSC

2014 Keynote: Irene Qualters
Division Director Advanced Cyberinfrastructure Division, NSF

2015 Keynote: Jim Kurose
NSF Computer & Information Science & Engineering Assistant Director

FREE!
Wed Sep 23 2015 @ OU
Reception/Poster Session
Tue Sep 22 2015 @ OU
Symposium
Wed Sep 23 2015 @ OU

Write a CI Proposal
ACI-REF Virt Res 2015, Thu June 4 2015
Thanks for your attention!

Questions?

hneeman@ou.edu