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Midwest Research Computing and Data Consortium

Midwest RCD Newsletter

July 13, 2025



Midwest RCD Profile Spotlight: Thomas White

Thomas White, Critical Environment Engineer in Data Center Strategy and Operations at the University of Washington

Series: Exploring the Landscape of Midwest Research Computing and Data Consortium

This is a series where we're diving into the world of the Midwest Research Computing and Data Consortium, exploring its members, the challenges, and future prospects. We had the opportunity to speak Thomas White, Critical Environment Engineer in Data Center Strategy and Operations at the University of Washington.

Thomas is a member of the Midwest RCD slack instance, contact them if you'd like to collaborate or learn more about their work.

[Read the Interview with Thomas White](#) →

[Recommend a Colleague for a Profile Spotlight Interview](#) →

Next Generation Data Center Workshop: Building the Future Together

In late February, we brought together **78 leaders, experts, and innovators** for the Next Gen Data Center Workshop at the Indiana University Indianapolis Campus Center. Hosted by the Pervasive Technology Institute and the Next Gen Data Center Affinity Group within the Midwest Research Computing and Data Consortium, this event sparked exciting conversations about the future of research computing and infrastructure.

Over 1.5 days, attendees explored the latest in scalable systems, AI workloads, infrastructure sustainability, and more through keynote talks, panels, and collaborative sessions.

Workshop Highlights:

- **Dell Technologies:** Steve Nowak challenged traditional data center models with a talk on integrated rack scalable systems.
- **Intel:** Michael Simon highlighted the latest advancements in data center solutions designed for Generative AI and high-performance computing (HPC) environments.
- **AMD:** Keith Kirkendall addressed critical infrastructure challenges, focusing on power, cooling, and scalability in modern data centers.
- **NVIDIA:** Marc West shared insights into the future of AI-driven workloads and GPU-accelerated computing.
- **Institutional Panels:** Representatives from universities and organizations discussed their approaches to next-generation data center design and management. Topics ranged from Facility Operations & Capacity Planning, to Sustainability and Power-Dense Infrastructure Considerations, to RFI Projects and Vendor Relationship Strategies.

A huge thank you to our outstanding planning team, Todd Shechter, Winona Snapp-Childs, Dave Hancock, Brock Palen, and Graham Allan, for their leadership in making this event a success!

[Read the Full Event Recap](#)

**Midwest Research Computing
and Data Consortium
Annual Meeting**



**Midwest RCD Annual Meeting: A Strong Turnout
& Engaging Conversations**

With an impressive **102 participants from 23 institutions**, we successfully completed the Midwest Research Computing and Data Annual Meeting at Case Western Reserve University on April 14-15, 2025.

This 1.5-day conference welcomed research computing and data professionals from across the region to exchange insights, explore innovations, and grow their professional networks. Participants engaged in lively discussions on emerging trends, discovered new approaches to research computing and data services, and connected with peers, whether they were just starting in the field or bringing years of experience.

We're currently putting together a full event recap and presentation materials. **Stay tuned for more!**

If you attended and haven't yet completed the post-event survey, we'd love to hear from you. Please complete the survey below.

[Post-Event Survey](#)

Affinity Groups: Learn More About the Application Process

Affinity Groups provide a platform for collaboration around shared topics of interest in research computing and data.

Have an idea? Propose a new group, and we'll support you in bringing it to life! We can provide a limited financial support to help you organize events, discussions, and activities that benefit the research computing and data community. Current groups include:

- Next Generation Data Centers
- Globus Compute

- Scientific Cloud Computing
- CI Value: Return on Investment and Impact

For further information, please email us at pti@iu.edu

[Learn More About Affinity Groups](#)

[Affinity Group Application Form](#)

Student Opportunities

Know an event to include here? [Submit your upcoming student opportunity](#).

Accepting applications NOW! • SC25 in St. Louis, MO

[SC25 Student Volunteers](#)

Student volunteers play a key role in supporting conference attendees and the conference overall. Undergraduate and graduate students help with the administration of the conference and have the opportunity to participate in the Students@SC program, explore the Exhibits, attend technical presentations, and develop lasting professional connections. The Student Volunteers program accepts a large number of students, both domestic and international, with the goal of welcoming new members into the HPC community.

Applications due May 16, 2025

[Indy SCC](#)

Are you ready to put your computing skills to test in a high-energy, hands-on competition?

In the months leading up to the SC25 conference, teams compete remotely

using provided hardware in an education-focused experience supported by HPC experts. A 48-hour contest held concurrently with SC is the culmination of experience and knowledge gained by the teams in the preceding months.

Students (six undergraduates), with the guidance of their advisor, will craft a proposal that describes their team, their approach to the competition, and what they hope to get out of the experience. This proposal is submitted as a team application for review by the SCC committee.

Applications due June 13, 2025

[CommUNITY@SC25](#)

CommUNITY@SC25 is a program whose mission is to strengthen the HPC community in the region where the annual SC Conference is held. It prepares participants for the technology jobs of the future through education, mentorship, and experience as members of the SCinet Committee. Individuals in the St. Louis region, including those who can add a new perspective, are encouraged to apply.

Applications due May 18, 2025

[PEARC25 Student Program](#)

The ACM PEARC25 student program (SP) begins Saturday, July 19th 2025, two days ahead of the general conference events. Many of the program activities will be held on Saturday and Sunday so that the students can attend conference workshops, tutorials, panels, and more from Monday through Thursday. The SP activities offer skill development, mentorship and networking opportunities which will help students begin their journey into their careers and connect them to research computing and data (RCD) professionals and scientists within academia, industry and government.

Various application deadlines

[U.S. Naval Research Laboratory Student Programs](#)

NRL participates in several Student Programs, each with their own features and requirements. Select a program for more information and learn how to apply for each one.

Accepting applications NOW!

[Statewide California Earthquake Center Internships](#)

Through hands-on research and professional development, SCEC interns acquire skills in data analysis, problem-solving, and systems thinking, collaborating with a diverse community of experts from over 90 institutions. SURE offers immersive, in-person research, while SOURCES provides accessible, remote opportunities. Both programs empower students to deepen their knowledge, expand professional networks, and contribute to impactful projects that address pressing geoscience challenges.

Application due May 1, 2025

[ACM/IEEE CS George Michael Memorial HPC Fellowship](#)

Endowed in memory of George Michael, one of the founders of the SC Conference series, the ACM/IEEE CS George Michael Memorial HPC Fellowship honors exceptional PhD students throughout the world whose research focus is on high-performance computing applications, networking, storage, or large-scale data analysis using the most powerful computers that are currently available.

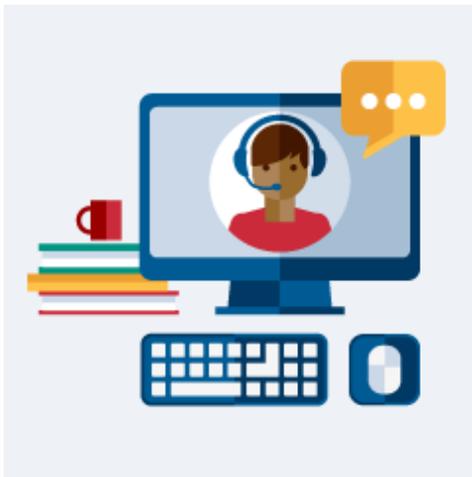
The award committee is selected by the two societies and includes past winners as well as leaders in the field. The Fellowship includes a \$5000 honorarium, recognition on the ACM, IEEE CS, and ACM SIGHPC websites, and travel expenses to attend SC. The recipients will be honored at the SC Conference Awards Ceremony.

Various application deadlines

[IEEE Computer Society Student Achievements in Computing](#)

Get recognized for your achievements as a student member of the IEEE Computer Society by applying for a scholarship or award program.

Connect with the Midwest RCD



Office Hours with the Program Office at IU

Join us any Tuesday at 11 a.m. Eastern. No registration needed, just click on the Zoom link or use the add to calendar link.

[Add Tuesdays to calendar.](#) →

[Tuesdays at 11 a.m. Zoom.](#) →

[Join/Follow Our LinkedIn Page](#)

Upcoming Related Events and Opportunities

Know an event to include here? [Submit your Midwest RCD-related event or opportunity.](#)

Various • Online submission

[ACCESS Events & Training](#)

ACCESS is an acronym that stands for “Advanced Cyberinfrastructure Coordination Ecosystem: Services & Support.” ACCESS is a program established and funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF) to help researchers and educators utilize the nation’s advanced computing systems and services. Almost any computer application that requires more than a desktop or laptop could qualify as needing an advanced computing system.

Sun-Fri, November 16-21 • St. Louis, MO

[SC25: The International Conference for High Performance Computing, Networking, Storage, and Analysis](#)

Plan to attend the SC25! Each year, SC provides the leading technical program for the HPC community. The Program is designed to share best practices in all areas of high performance computing.

Sun-Thurs, July 20-24, 2025 • Columbus, OH

[PEARC25 Conference](#)

ACM PEARC25 will take place in Columbus, Ohio from July 20 – 24, 2025, and will explore the current practice and experience in advanced research computing, including workforce development, training, diversity, applications and software, and systems and software.

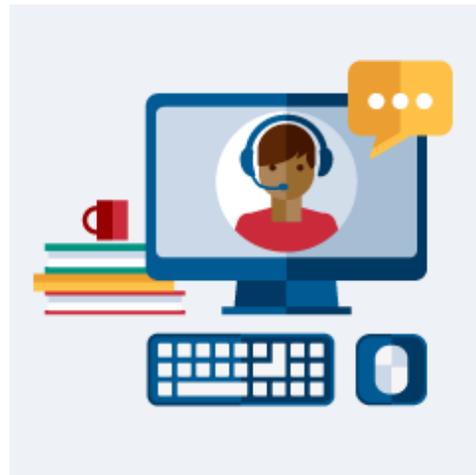
Connect with the Community

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Next-Gen DC Affinity Group

The Next-Generation Data Center group focuses on learning about advancements in facilities and operations of data centers.

[Join the Next-Gen DC Affinity Group](#) →

Globus Compute Affinity Group

We strive to build an inclusive and equitable culture which will promote and increase diversity. This group is being created to ensure that there is diversity in committees, events (annual meetings), and leadership positions.

[Join the Globus Compute Affinity Group](#) →

ROI Affinity Group

This group focuses on approaches to gauging impact as well as quantitative and qualitative measures needed to communicate the benefits of investments in cyberinfrastructure on our campuses.

[Join the ROI Affinity Group →](#)

Scientific Cloud Affinity Group

This group focuses on how HPC centers approach cloud computing to support increasingly diverse scientific and engineering research and education endeavors and what skill sets CI professionals will need to support cloud workflows and data management.

[Join the Scientific Cloud Affinity Group →](#)

Help Grow the Midwest RCD Consortium: Forward This Newsletter to Your Students & Colleagues



About the Midwest Research Computing and Data Consortium

Regional stakeholders working collectively in a trusted forum can shape the future by working collectively on topics of mutual interest, by onboarding organizations that find value in the mission of the organization, by sharing information transparently, and by providing opportunities for CI professionals staff members in our organization to contribute, to be mentored, to belong to a cohort, and to become leaders.

[Read more about Midwest RCD](#) →



RCN:CIP: Midwest Research Computing and Data Consortium

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[NSF Award information](#) →



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