



2025 Annual Network Meeting

Hosted by Winona Snapp-Childs, Indiana University
Beth Plale, Indiana University

April 14-15, 2025
Case Western Reserve University

Prepared by:
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Executive Summary

The Midwest RCD Network's strength lies in its commitment to fostering collaboration, sharing expertise, and building a connected community that empowers cyberinfrastructure (CI) professionals to navigate today's rapidly evolving research landscape. The Annual Network Retreat is a cornerstone of our growing alliance of Midwestern Universities dedicated to supporting experimental, observational, and computational sciences through a variety of high-performance (HPC) and data resources. This in-person gathering rotates across member institutions and focuses on advancing our shared priority to serve the region's CI professionals who design, manage, and advance research computing and data services.

The 2025 Retreat, hosted by Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, OH, on April 14–15, convened 102 research computing and data professionals from 26 Midwest institutions. The 1.5-day program featured peer exchange, technical sessions, and community-building activities designed to strengthen cohesion, inclusion, and professional identity.

Highlights included an interactive workshop on communicating across differences, a keynote by Dr. Daniel Blankenberg on the application of quantum computing in healthcare, and sessions on AI deployment, cybersecurity, OS migrations, Globus Compute, and ICICLE tools. Lightning talks, a social network analysis, and informal networking reinforced collaboration and community ties.

Meeting Goals

The Annual Retreat advances the consortium's mission to build a strong, connected community at the intersection of research, innovation, and technology.

The 2025 meeting specifically aimed to:

- Leverage accelerator programs (affinity groups, Student Experience, Residency Fellows) to strengthen expertise and community.
- Expand participation across institutions and professional roles.
- Foster relationships through peer-to-peer exchange.

Participants and Target Audience

The meeting engaged more than 100 attendees, including six students supported by the Student Experience Program. Participants represented a cross-section of the RCD ecosystem,

comprising professionals (54%), institutional leaders (27%), and developers, postdoctoral researchers, and graduate students (19%). Institutions ranged from major public and private R1 universities to regional campuses and nonprofit HPC centers, underscoring both breadth and depth of engagement.

Results & Impact

Survey Findings (37 responses):

- Overall satisfaction: 68% Excellent, 30% Very Good.
- Engagement: Lightning Talks (92%) and the Networking Reception (90%) were most valued for building connections. Technical sessions on quantum computing (84%), AI (83%), Globus Compute (82%), OS upgrades (93%), and cybersecurity (89%) provided actionable insights.
- Key takeaways: Attendees emphasized the value of regional collaboration, shared infrastructure strategies, and applying lessons on compliance, new tools, and emerging technologies at their institutions.
- Growth opportunities: Future interests include digital twin technology, open-source storage, federal funding updates, and regulatory frameworks.

Institutional Participation

Representation continues to expand: from 83 attendees at 23 institutions in 2024 to 102 attendees at 26 institutions in 2025. Participation was concentrated among five hub institutions (Case Western, Indiana, Michigan, OSC, and Purdue), which together accounted for 72% of attendance. This demonstrates both growing leadership and opportunities for broader inclusion.

Social Network Analysis

Network analysis confirmed strong collaboration among central hubs (Indiana University, Ohio Supercomputer Center, Michigan State University) and identified bridging roles for Case Western and OSC. Institutions with shared NSF cyberinfrastructure projects formed tight clusters, while smaller or non-R1 campuses often remained peripheral—highlighting opportunities for targeted engagement. Five distinct institutional communities emerged, reflecting regional, funding, and disciplinary ties. These insights inform Midwest RCD's strategy for fostering inclusive, cross-institutional collaboration.

Organizing Committee

Winona Snapp-Childs (Indiana University)
Beth Plale (Indiana University)
Hadrian Djohari (Case Western Reserve University)
Lee Liming (University of Chicago)
Benjamin Lynch (University of Minnesota)
Karen Tomko (Ohio Supercomputer Center)

Discussion and Key Takeaways

The 2025 Annual Network Retreat, hosted at Case Western Reserve University, offered a dynamic mix of workshops, technical sessions, and networking opportunities designed to strengthen both professional expertise and community ties.

Community and Professional Development:

- A hands-on intercultural communication workshop equipped participants with practical tools for effective collaboration across cultural and institutional boundaries.
- Networking events fostered meaningful connections, particularly between established professionals and Student Experience Program awardees, underscoring the consortium's commitment to mentorship and inclusion.

Keynote Insights – Quantum Computing in Healthcare:

- Dr. Daniel Blankenberg (Cleveland Clinic) highlighted the growing importance of quantum computing, with real-world use cases already emerging in genomics and clinical modeling.
- Takeaways included the need for hybrid infrastructure, workforce training in quantum programming, and cross-functional collaboration to prepare for rapid adoption.

Thematic Sessions:

- **AI in Support Services:** Panelists shared institutional strategies for deploying AI chatbots to improve user support while addressing accuracy, privacy, and domain-specific challenges.
- **Operational Challenges:** Breakout sessions on Globus Compute and OS migrations provided candid, practical insights into deployment strategies, scalability, and user transition planning.

- **Lightning Talks:** Topics ranged from leveraging NSF ACCESS resources to data stewardship and research impact assessment, offering quick, actionable takeaways.
- **Data Policy & Sustainability:** Discussions on data access, monetization, and long-term stewardship highlighted the tension between open science and sustainable funding models.

Emerging Priorities:

- **Smart Infrastructure:** ICICLE project demonstrations showcased AI-driven tools for performance prediction, scheduling, and model documentation.
- **Cybersecurity:** A practitioner-led session on CMMC compliance underscored the urgency of secure, compliant infrastructure for federally funded research, while surfacing community strategies for balancing usability with regulatory demands.

Overall Takeaways:

Participants consistently emphasized the value of:

- Regional collaboration and shared problem-solving.
- Practical sessions that address operational and technical realities.
- Building workforce capacity in emerging areas such as quantum computing, AI integration, and cybersecurity compliance.
- Sustained mentorship and inclusion to broaden the pipeline of RCD professionals.

Alignment with NSF Priorities

Intellectual Merit

The 2025 Midwest RCD Annual Network Retreat advanced the frontiers of research computing by convening 102 professionals from 26 institutions to share technical knowledge, innovations, and best practices. Technical sessions addressed **emerging research challenges** (quantum computing, AI integration, cybersecurity, OS migrations, and Globus Compute deployment), providing participants with actionable expertise to strengthen their local research infrastructure. By fostering peer-to-peer exchange across diverse institutions, the meeting advanced the

intellectual foundations of **cyberinfrastructure-enabled discovery** and **workforce development in computational sciences**.

Broader Impacts

The retreat intentionally emphasized **community building, inclusion, and mentorship**:

- The **Student Experience Program** integrated six students into the event, pairing them with professional mentors to expand pathways into the RCD workforce.
- Workshops on intercultural communication promoted **inclusive collaboration skills**, preparing attendees for diverse, global research partnerships.
- Networking and lightning talks connected professionals across institutional types — from R1 universities to regional campuses and nonprofit centers — expanding access and broadening participation in national cyberinfrastructure initiatives.

These efforts extend the impact of NSF investments by strengthening professional identity, belonging, and collaboration across the region.

Alignment with National Priorities

The meeting addressed multiple national research priorities:

- **AI & Emerging Technologies:** Sessions on AI deployment, LLM-based chatbots, and ICICLE demonstrations aligned with the national push to responsibly advance AI capabilities while ensuring data privacy, security, and usability.
- **Quantum Computing:** Keynote insights from Cleveland Clinic underscored the urgency of preparing RCD professionals for the coming quantum era, directly supporting national priorities in **healthcare innovation and quantum workforce development**.
- **Cybersecurity & Research Security:** Discussions on CMMC compliance addressed federally mandated requirements for protecting research tied to national defense, highlighting the role of RCD professionals in safeguarding U.S. research leadership.
- **Data Stewardship & Open Science:** Lightning talks and breakout sessions surfaced challenges and solutions around data sustainability, FAIR principles, and long-term stewardship, aligning with NSF's emphasis on **open, equitable, and secure data infrastructure**.

Meeting Goals in Context

The retreat's goals — strengthening community through accelerator programs, expanding institutional participation, and fostering lasting professional connections — directly support NSF's strategic vision for a **diverse, collaborative, and technically skilled RCD workforce**. By convening institutions across the Midwest, the consortium amplifies regional capacity while serving as a vital **national node** in advancing cyberinfrastructure, innovation, and workforce readiness.

Implications and Next Steps

The 2025 Annual Network Retreat demonstrated the Midwest RCD Network's value as both a regional hub and a contributor to national cyberinfrastructure priorities. Strong participation, positive outcomes, and the identification of emerging needs highlight the importance of sustaining momentum and continuing to expand the consortium's reach.

Looking ahead, the consortium will:

- **Host the 2026 Annual Network Retreat** at a partner institution, continuing to provide a collegial, non-competitive forum for knowledge exchange and community-building.
- **Deepen engagement with Accelerator Programs** (Affinity Groups, Student Experience Program, Residency Fellows) to strengthen professional expertise, foster mentorship, and ensure inclusive participation across career stages.
- **Expand institutional participation**, with particular emphasis on R2 universities and regional campuses. This expansion will broaden the talent pipeline, diversify institutional perspectives, and extend the reach of NSF investments into new communities.
- **Foster additional peer-to-peer exchanges**, emphasizing practical, problem-solving sessions where participants can share operational insights, accelerate adoption of emerging technologies, and collectively address shared infrastructure challenges.

By pursuing these priorities, the Midwest RCD Network will build on its demonstrated success to grow a more inclusive, technically capable, and connected regional community. These efforts will directly support NSF's strategic goals of advancing cyberinfrastructure innovation, broadening participation, and preparing a skilled national workforce at the intersection of research, data, and technology.

Acknowledgements

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Attachments

Agenda

Survey Results

2025 Midwest RCD Annual Meeting

A Activity **D** Administrative **C** Closed Session **P** Presentation/Panel **S** Sustenance

APRIL 14 • MONDAY

2:00pm – 3:15pm	C Steering Committee Meeting	Crawford Hall, Conference Room 725, 10900 Euclid Ave, Cleveland, OH 44106 (10900 Euclid Ave, Cleveland, OH 44106) <i>Steering and Organizing Commit...: Jane Combs, Hadrian Djohari, Scott Hampton, Lee Liming, Benjamin Lynch, Beth Plale, Todd Shechter, Preston Smith, Winona Snapp-Childs</i>
3:00pm – 5:30pm	D Registration/Welcome Table	Eldred Hall, Auditorium, 2070 Adelbert Rd, Cleveland, OH 44106 (2070 Adelbert Rd, Cleveland, OH 44106) <i>Steering and Organizing Commit...: Esen Gokpinar-Shelton, Laura Pettit, Robert Ping</i>
3:30pm – 3:35pm	P Day 1: Introduction and Welcome	Eldred Hall, Auditorium, 2070 Adelbert Rd, Cleveland, OH 44106 (2070 Adelbert Rd, Cleveland, OH 44106) <i>Speakers: Winona Snapp-Childs</i>
3:35pm – 5:15pm	A Communicating Across Differences	Eldred Hall, Auditorium, 2070 Adelbert Rd, Cleveland, OH 44106 (2070 Adelbert Rd, Cleveland, OH 44106) <i>Speakers: Kenny Hertling, Connie Peterson-Miller</i>
6:00pm – 7:45pm	S Networking Reception	Michelson and Morley Restaurant, 11038 Bellflower Rd, Cleveland, OH 44106, USA (11038 Bellflower Rd, Cleveland, OH 44106, USA)
6:00pm – 8:00pm	D Registration/Welcome Table	Michelson and Morley Restaurant, 11038 Bellflower Rd, Cleveland, OH 44106, USA (11038 Bellflower Rd, Cleveland, OH 44106, USA) <i>Steering and Organizing Commit...: Esen Gokpinar-Shelton, Laura Pettit, Robert Ping</i>

2025 Midwest RCD Annual Meeting

A Activity **D** Administrative **B** Breakout **P** Presentation/Panel **S** Sustenance

APRIL 15 • TUESDAY

7:30am – 8:30am	S	Networking Breakfast	Tinkham Veale University Center Ballroom A, 11038 Bellflower Rd, Cleveland, OH 44106, USA (11038 Bellflower Rd, Cleveland, OH 44106, USA)
7:30am – 5:00pm	D	Registration/Welcome Table <i>Steering and Organizing Commit...: Esen Gokpinar-Shelton, Laura Pettit, Robert Ping</i>	
8:30am – 8:50am	P	Day 2: Introduction and Welcome <i>Speakers: Winona Snapp-Tinkham Veale University Center Ballroom A, 11038 Bellflower Rd, Cleveland, OH 44106, USA (11038 Bellflower Rd, Cleveland, OH 44106, USA) Childs</i>	
8:50am – 9:35am	P	Keynote Presentation: Quantum Computing at Cleveland Clinic: Advancing Research Through Collaboration and Innovation <i>Speakers: Daniel Tinkham Veale University Center Ballroom A, 11038 Bellflower Rd, Cleveland, OH 44106, USA (11038 Bellflower Rd, Cleveland, OH 44106, USA) Blankenberg</i>	
9:40am – 10:40am	P	Panel: Best Practices in Deploying AI Chatbots <i>Moderators: Karen Tomko Tinkham Veale University Center Ballroom A, 11038 Bellflower Rd, Cleveland, OH 44106, USA (11038 Bellflower Rd, Cleveland, OH 44106, USA) Speakers: Vikram Gazula, Erik Gough, Heechang Na</i>	
10:40am – 11:10am	S	Group Photo & Networking Break	
11:10am – 12:00pm	B	Breakout 1: Experiences with Globus Compute <i>Moderators: Todd Raeker Tinkham Veale University Center Ballroom A, 11038 Bellflower Rd, Cleveland, OH 44106, USA (11038 Bellflower Rd, Cleveland, OH 44106, USA) Speakers: Lee Liming, Geoffrey Lentner</i>	
11:10am – 12:00pm	B	Breakout 2: OS Upgrades in an HPC: Moving from CentOS to Ubuntu <i>Speakers: Joe Ryan Tinkham Veale University Center Ballroom B, 11038 Bellflower Rd, Cleveland, OH 44106, USA (11038 Bellflower Rd, Cleveland, OH 44106, USA)</i>	
12:00pm – 12:50pm	S	Networking Luncheon	Tinkham Veale University Center Ballroom A, 11038 Bellflower Rd, Cleveland, OH 44106, USA (11038 Bellflower Rd, Cleveland, OH 44106, USA)
12:50pm – 1:50pm	P	Lightning Talks	Tinkham Veale University Center Ballroom A, 11038 Bellflower Rd, Cleveland, OH 44106, USA (11038 Bellflower Rd, Cleveland, OH 44106, USA) <i>Speakers: Stephen Deems, Geoffrey Lentner, Preston Smith, Joseph Tang</i>
1:50pm – 2:35pm	P	Data Access vs. Monetization – Finding the Right Balance <i>Speakers: Benjamin Tinkham Veale University Center Ballroom A, 11038 Bellflower Rd, Cleveland, OH 44106, USA (11038 Bellflower Rd, Cleveland, OH 44106, USA) Lynch</i>	
2:35pm – 2:55pm	S	Networking Break: Enjoy Popcorn, Sweet Treats, and Coffee	
2:55pm – 3:45pm	B	Breakout 3: ICICLE Middleware Development for AI & Advanced Computing <i>Moderators: Karen Tomko Tinkham Veale University Center Ballroom A, 11038 Bellflower Rd, Cleveland, OH 44106, USA (11038 Bellflower Rd, Cleveland, OH 44106, USA) Speakers: Jane Combs, Debargha Ganguly, Beth Plale, Preston Smith, Swathi Vallabhajosyula, Sachith Withana, Biyao Zhang</i>	
2:55pm – 3:45pm	B	Breakout 4: Security & Compliance: Cybersecurity Maturity Model Certificate (CMMC) for DoD Research <i>Speakers: Todd Shechter Tinkham Veale University Center Ballroom B, 11038 Bellflower Rd, Cleveland, OH 44106, USA (11038 Bellflower Rd, Cleveland, OH 44106, USA)</i>	
3:50pm – 4:20pm	A	Social Network Analysis - Activity <i>Speakers: Esen Gokpinar-Tinkham Veale University Center Ballroom A, 11038 Bellflower Rd, Cleveland, OH 44106, USA (11038 Bellflower Rd, Cleveland, OH 44106, USA) Shelton</i>	
4:20pm – 4:30pm	P	Closing Remarks	Tinkham Veale University Center Ballroom A, 11038 Bellflower Rd, Cleveland, OH 44106, USA (11038 Bellflower Rd, Cleveland, OH 44106, USA) <i>Speakers: Winona Snapp-Childs</i>

Midwest RCD Annual Meeting Post-Event Survey Results April 14-15, 2025

Summary

A total of 37 participants responded to the survey (out of ~80, resulting in about 50% response rate). Overall, the workshop was perceived as highly beneficial. Below are the key insights, with the raw results from the Google Form included in the Appendix.

1. Participant Roles:

- The majority of respondents were **Research Computing & Data Professionals** (54%), followed by **Research Computing & Data Leadership** (27%) and various other roles, including **software developers, postdocs, and graduate students** (~20%).

2. Workshop Experience:

- **Sixty-eight percent (68%)** of attendees rated their overall experience as **“Excellent”** (5), with an additional 29.7% rating it as **“Very Good”** (4).

3. Valuable Activities (see below for a further breakdown):

- The **Networking Reception** (90%) and **Lightning Talks** (91.7%) were highly valued, with 4 or 5 ratings from the majority of attendees, indicating these formats were effective. The **Keynote** on Quantum Computing (83.8%) also received strong positive feedback.
- The Panel on **AI Model Deployment** (82.9%) and **Breakout on Globus Compute** (82.1%) had high ratings of 4 or 5, reflecting the value of these hands-on sessions.
- The **Breakout on OS Upgrades** (92.9%) and **Security & Compliance** (88.9%) had smaller audiences but received high ratings of 4 or 5, indicating these niche but highly valuable topics resonated strongly with attendees.
- If you're interested in a session-by-session breakdown with specific ratings, along with some added comments for each, please see pages 14–15.

4. Additional Topics Requested: Most respondents either had no additional topics to suggest or felt the breadth of sessions was sufficient. However, several attendees expressed interest in the following areas:

- **Technical Topics included:** Digital Twin Technology (biomedical and environmental modeling); HPC Scheduler tools (SLURM, PBS); Software development topics; Open-source data storage solutions (e.g., Ceph, OSN); Bioinformatics-related HPC use; LLM
- **Funding & Policy:** Federal funding and policy updates; Insights from NSF CC awardees; Steps to building regional partnerships beyond federal funding

- **Security & Compliance:** More on regulatory overlaps/conflicts, and privacy.
- **Other:** Research facilitation; Sustainability and cost-recovery for HPC/RSE projects; Data center upgrades

5. **Key Takeaways for Attendees:**

- The most cited benefit was connecting with both new and familiar peers, many highlighted meaningful discussions, ongoing collaboration potential, and **feeling part of a vibrant regional group with shared challenges**. The Midwest's strong CI resources and peer proximity were seen as key collaboration advantages.
- Sessions on quantum computing, CMMC, AI, Globus Compute, and chatbot deployment offered valuable insights across a range of roles.
- Attendees emphasized **the need for increased cross-institutional knowledge sharing and better connections to relevant expertise**.

6. **Most Important Takeaway for Institutions:**

- Many attendees emphasized **the value of regional collaboration**, noting shared challenges and the importance of staying connected with peers to exchange ideas and solutions. Insights into **CMMC compliance** were frequently mentioned, with several planning to share what they learned about others' strategies. Others highlighted specific tools, especially **Globus Compute, quantum computing, and AI**, as promising resources to explore or implement. Several mentioned **new or renewed networking contacts** as key assets going forward, and **the meeting reinforced a desire to stay involved and build stronger inter-institutional ties**.

7. **Other Feedback:**

- Most respondents had no additional comments, but those who did expressed widespread **gratitude and praise for the organizers, noting smooth logistics, strong networking opportunities, and a welcoming atmosphere**. The venue was appreciated for its accessibility and convenient layout. **Suggestions** included adding power strips at tables, offering more support for smaller institutions, organizing a future field trip to the quantum computing center, and providing session recordings, which one attendee missed.

Appendix

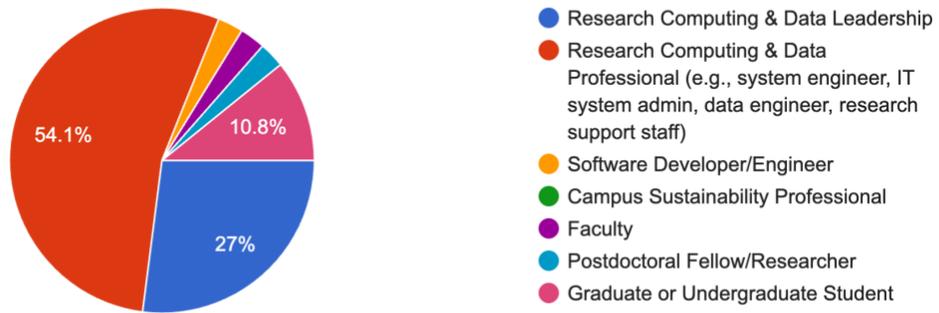
Midwest RCD Annual Meeting 2025: Post-Event Feedback Form

37 responses

1.

What is your primary role?

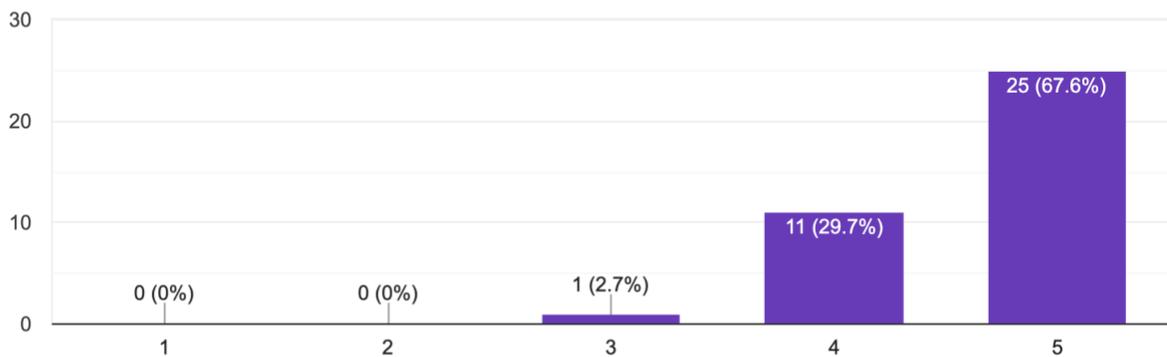
37 responses



2.

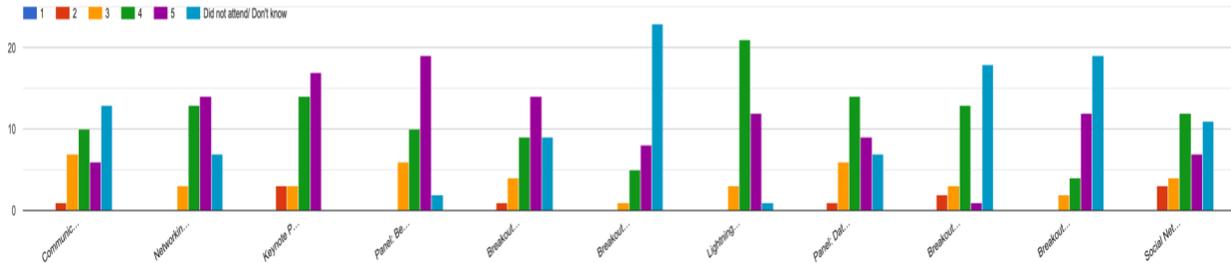
How would you rate your overall experience at the annual meeting?

37 responses



3.

Which activities were most valuable to you (1 = not valuable, 3 = somewhat valuable, 5 = very valuable)?



Communicating Across Differences Workshop:

- Did not attend: 13
- Very valuable (5): 6
- Valuable (4): 10
- Somewhat valuable (3): 7
- Not super valuable (2): 1

Networking Reception

- Did not attend: 7
- Very valuable (5): 14
- Valuable (4): 13
- Somewhat valuable (3): 3

Keynote Presentation: Quantum Computing at Cleveland Clinic: Advancing Research Through Collaboration and Innovation

- Very valuable (5): 17
- Valuable (4): 14
- Somewhat valuable (3): 3
- Not super valuable (2): 3

Panel: Best Practices in AI Model Deployment

- Did not attend: 2
- Very valuable (5): 19
- Valuable (4): 10
- Somewhat valuable (3): 6

Breakout 1: Experiences with Globus Compute

- Did not attend: 9
- Very valuable (5): 14
- Valuable (4): 9
- Somewhat valuable (3): 4

- Not super valuable (2): 1

Breakout 2: OS Upgrades in an HPC: Moving from CentOS to Ubuntu

- Did not attend: 23
- Very valuable (5): 8
- Valuable (4): 5
- Somewhat valuable (3): 1

Lightning Talks

- Did not attend: 1
- Very valuable (5): 12
- Valuable (4): 21
- Somewhat valuable (3): 3

Data Access vs. Monetization. Finding the Right Balance

- Did not attend: 7
- Very valuable (5): 9
- Valuable (4): 14
- Somewhat valuable (3): 6
- Not super valuable (2): 1

Breakout 3: ICICLE Middleware Development for AI & Advanced Computing

- Did not attend: 18
- Very valuable (5): 1
- Valuable (4): 13
- Somewhat valuable (3): 3
- Not super valuable (2): 2

Breakout 4: Security & Compliance: Cybersecurity Maturity Model Certificate (CMMC) for DoD Research

- Did not attend: 19
- Very valuable (5): 12
- Valuable (4): 4
- Somewhat valuable (3): 2

Social Network Analysis - Activity

- Did not attend: 11
- Very valuable (5): 7
- Valuable (4): 12
- Somewhat valuable (3): 4
- Not super valuable (2): 3

4. What was your favorite session and why?

- Security & Compliance
- Globus Compute because I am biased :)

- n/a
- Data monetization, because it cultivated a discussion amongst the whole auditorium
- Lightning talks - the variety of topics covered
- Globus Compute. Was information I was interested in. I was able to attend.
- Experiences with Globus Compute
- Best Practices in AI Model Deployment - I like to hear the current state of neighboring institutions and where to grow
- I enjoyed the Data Access and monetization, since it is a hot-button topic AND i really enjoyed that it was interactive with the mendi(?) responses from the room! It made it feel like we were all participating in a discussion that was lead by the presenter - 10/10! Plus the topic stimulated discourse at my table afterwards since everyone has an opinion about accessibility!
- Data Access vs. Monetization: It led to good discussions in the break afterwards.
- Communicating Across Differences, Keynote, chatbot deployment, Globus Compute, Lightening Talks, and CMMC all stood out with valuable, relevant, and applicable information, and community connections
- The keynote. The topic is timely, the presentation was excellent, and the speaker was engaging.
- I really liked the ICICLE Session, as I feel like I learned the most about other universities the way the talk was setup
- I had great discussion over lunch and during the breaks over workflow stuff to do with Globus Computer and HyperShell. So these would be the most valuable to me as they lead to discussion and collaboration afterwards.
- The Data Minimization talk - controversy sparked discussion. I also enjoyed the Keynote talk.
- Chatbot AI, I could gain insight into the application of AI for the Research Services.
- Panel: Best Practices in AI Model Deployment: It gives up-to-date information on the other center's activities on AI deployments.
- Quantum Computing at the Cleveland Clinic
- I thought the CMMC breakout sessions was very well facilitated as a conversation of shared experiences between different institutions.
- Quantum Computing at Cleveland Clinic, because it's an area I don't know much about yet and will need to know more before long.
- Lightning Talks were extremely interesting
- Breakout 4: Security & Compliance: Cybersecurity Maturity Model Certificate (CMMC) for DoD Research -- most relevant to my "day job"
- Breakout session #4: It was very informative on the aspect of security to achieve DoD research.

- The CentOS->Ubuntu talk. It was an unexpected choice and it was informative to see what factors influenced the decision and how MSU approached the challenge.
- keynote on Quantum; super helpful
- My favorite was the Best Practices in AI Model Deployment session — it broke down real-world challenges and gave clear takeaways. I also really appreciated the networking event for meeting folks from different institutions, and the Social Network Analysis session was helpful for understanding how the community's connected.
- Globus compute breakout because I learned the most new things from it.
- I really enjoyed the AI model deployment session, as this is a very relevant topic and one that our institution is considering currently. Do we build our own infrastructure or model on campus or use one that's already available, like AnvilGPT through ACCESS. Smaller institutions need help understanding what resources are available. This helped give a good perspective.
- Quantum computing - very clear presentation that helps understand where QC is at
- Keynote Presentation: Quantum Computing at Cleveland Clinic: Advancing Research Through Collaboration and Innovation
- The quantum computing. I am keenly interested in it and was happy to see some real applications
- Lightning sessions are a great way to exposure to a lot of information in a short time that allows follow-up between sessions.
- My favorite session was on the one on globus. I am graduate student who is currently working on data movement project in HPC. Found this very relevant and discovered new ideas.
- Keynote. It helps us to prepare for Quantum in HPC
- It's between globus compute and ACCESS. Both talk about services that were immediately applicable to my lab's situation.
- CMMC session. Very interesting to hear where/what other universities are at in the CMMC certification process and what kind of CUI environments are in use. I actually came away with an action item for our CUI setup that might be very helpful to us.
- Best Practices in AI Model Deployment

5. Were there any sessions or topics you wish had been covered?

- No
- N/A
- n/a
- Learned what peers are doing

- I like the breadth of topics, the more the merrier
- unknown
- N.A.
- -
- Maybe more on like, how do you
- Steps to building a regional partnership, other than collaborating on a federal funding opportunity that requires a partnership.
- Not that I can think of at this time
- I wish there was more information on Digital Twin Technology for Biomedical and Environmental Modeling
- I would love to see sessions on research facilitation and sustainability/cost-recovery of HPC/RSE support projects.
- Nothing that comes to mind right now.
- HPC Scheduler - SLURM, PBS and etc
- Funding and policy changes from the federal gov.
- I come from a software developer role, so I would have loved some more sessions on that side of things, even though I understand many from the community are from more of a systems role.
- Not that I know of
- More coverage on overlapping/conflicting regulatory frameworks
- Unsure
- I could probably come up with a few things, but there's only so much you can fit in 1.5 days.
- We are particularly interested in the NSF CC* program to help fund our campus cyberinfrastructure. It would have been great to hear from grant awardees from our region on the various program areas. Data storage is an important topic for us. We are reviewing Open Storage Network (OSN) as hosting our own Ceph cluster is likely impossible, but open-source data store solutions is really the only viable option for the NSF CC* campus data storage program.
- Data center upgrade
- More security and privacy related topics
- no
- More bioinformatic-specific or applicable talks. I am not a sys-admin, but I am always looking for ways to make HPC work more efficient and accessible for myself and less savvy individuals.
- More security/compliance topics
- More on LLMs

6. What are your key takeaways from attending the annual meeting?

- n/a
- quantum computing
- -
- Quantum Computing does not threaten encryption today, CMMC compliance is hard and expensive
- This is a great and budget-friendly way of connecting with regional peers. Thank you to the steering committee, organizers, and the NSF for having (and implementing!) this vision.
- We have a nice regional group of professional
- others are having similar challenges
- I was expecting there to be recordings of the sessions I was not able to attend, and am disappointed that there are not.
- There are abundant computational resources here in the midwest therefore I know the opportunities that are around for collaboration
- Knowledge about how other universities are approaching AI and CMMC compliance.
- Attendees had a wide range of backgrounds and perspectives, and having this increased the number of valuable contributions everyone was able to give and benefit from. Range of necessary and important resources my organization will benefit from, from Communicating Across Differences, Keynote, chatbot deployment, Globus Compute, Lightning Talks, and CMMC. Networking event times allowed discussion and knowledge-sharing around session topics. Stronger connections with meeting attendees.
- My institution is part of a group much bigger than itself, with people doing many of the same activities, and dealing with similar struggles.
- The connections I made
- I made connects with peers at other centers here in the Midwest.
- We face similar challenges, the opportunity to share solutions is really helpful.
- Building connections to other IT people in the Midwest community
- I am part of a vibrant group of CI professionals.
- Regional networks are great due to proximity and ability to collaborate more frequently.
- It's very useful to meet colleagues at other institutions
- We can share more between institutions; 2. We can facilitate sharing between institutions (I may not know the answer but ABC at XYZ does, let me put you in touch...); 3. We need to do a better job on 1 & 2 (We --> start at home)

- If there are any problems regarding HPC research, reach out to others and listen. The few that I networked with at the event had plenty of answers to my ongoing field problems.
- Good touchpoints with peers at regional institutions.
- Great learning, good timing for the discussions.
- My main takeaway was the chance to connect with peers from different institutions — hearing about their work and sharing ideas was really valuable. It gave me a broader view of what’s happening across the community.
- Face to face meetings like this are important.
- That there are a lot of great people in the region and are willing to share and help.
- RCD is still a very evolving field
- Met new people and also learned the new techniques in the computing.
- the broad things various groups are doing with respect to research computing
- Regional networks are increasingly important in the current RCD climate, especially as it relates to university settings.
 - Collaboration is very important
 - People can have diverse routes to research support roles
- Globus compute and ACCESS
- Great opportunity to network with people from other institutions and both strengthening existing relationships and making new ones.
- Networking

7. What is the most important thing you will take back to your institution?

- n/a
- -
- CMMC compliance is hard and expensive
- Definitely attending next year
- We should try to form at least one collaboration with a peer institution
- other organizations challenges and steps in working toward CMMC compliance
- N.A.
- Experiences with Globus Compute
- I have already pitched the group to my PI and our data and operations engineer
- Connections to other cyberinfrastructure professionals.
- Range of necessary and important tools and resources my organization will benefit from, especially from Communicating Across Differences, the Keynote, chatbot deployment, Globus Compute, Lightning Talks, and CMMC.
- Networking contacts of colleagues elsewhere in MWRCD.

- How different institutions are choosing their CMMC's and why
- A few ideas on Globus Computer.
- Contacts at other institutions with specific experience/solutions.
- Shared experiences from other institute.
- HPC upgrade strategies
- I am currently working with a Daniel Madren and Scott Michael on a US-RSE midwest network (starting in Indiana). Seeing the Midwest RCD in action is helpful as we begin thinking about how to create momentum when building out the RSE network.
- AI insights
- We can share more between institutions; 2. We can facilitate sharing between institutions (I may not know the answer but ABC at XYZ does, let me put you in touch...); 3. We need to do a better job on 1 & 2 (We --> start at home) -- our sports teams' motto is "Leaders and Best" -- need to do a better job on that front.
- Collaborate more with other universities. I feel that we could do so much more.
- Some ideas about better advertising our services with partner organizations
- CMMC knowledge of what others are doing.
- The most important thing I'll take back is the reminder of how valuable it is to stay connected with peers in the region, learn from their cases, and exchange ideas to tackle shared challenges.
- Additional knowledge about CMMC, Globus compute and renewed connections with other schools.
- We need to participate annually and find other ways to join the community. We will be exploring Globus, ACCESS, and using the Purdue ROI calculations to help justify future investments at our campus.
- networking with appropriate folks in other universities are important
- I met people in our school hpc department and will make appointment to visit the quantum computers
- we are not alone.
- The strengths of institutions working together.
- A stronger understanding of how to navigate and leverage HPC support networks to solve computational challenges more efficiently and share that knowledge with peers.
- Quantum computing
- Globus compute. My lab is new to CWRU and we're trying to figure out ways to distribute our computational resources. With this, it seems I can use our workstations as mini-hpcs that lab members can remotely queue jobs to.
- Communicating what others are doing for CMMC certification to other members of my institution.

- More to do

8. Is there anything that we did not ask about that you would like to tell us?

- N/A
- No
- -
- n/a
- no
- Snacks were good
- Thank you!
- N.A.
- I appreciate and enjoy the emphasis on networking and socializing with each other as I think it primes everyone to be friendly
- I appreciated that the location was easily accessible from public transportation.
- Not that I can think of at this time
- No. Thank you.
- A hotel that is very close/walking distance to all of the meeting rooms was great. Thanks to CWRU for hosting!
- Nope. Thank you so much for organizing such a great annual meeting.
- Thanks for coordinating and planning the meeting. The logistics were smooth and I had a great time meeting many new people!
- Thank you for organizing!
- Thank you for focusing on information sharing -- many hands makes for short work (and every other way of conveying this concept)
- Thanks to the organizers for a great meeting! Case was beautiful to visit.
- I am so very grateful for this program and appreciate all of the hard work everyone does to put it together.
- I thought the sessions were great. Being from an R2, some of the projects and discussions on resources seemed a bit impossible for us, but it was great to hear what other leaders are doing. Perhaps offering some options to attract smaller research institutions and helping them get from 0 or from limited resources to a plan for developing more mature computing centers.
- none
- nope!
- The field trip to Quantum computing center would have been great!
- Thanks for having me!

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May 7, 2025

- It would have been really nice to have power strips at each table to be able to plug in computers or other devices.
- Good meeting.

Activities Breakdown

I calculated a detailed breakdown of the activities and their individual ratings in case anyone wants to take a closer look and added some notes for each.

Communicating Across Differences Workshop

- Did not attend: 13
- Attended: 24
- Rated 4 or 5: 16 (66.7%)

Two-thirds of those who attended found this session valuable, though it had one of the lower positive ratings among sessions. So, it has moderate perceived value; perhaps we can consider improving engagement or relevance for future offerings.

Networking Reception

- Did not attend: 7
- Attended: 30
- Rated 4 or 5: 27 (90%)

This session was highly valued, with a strong majority of attendees finding it meaningful.

Keynote: Quantum Computing at Cleveland Clinic

- Attended: 37
- Rated 4 or 5: 31 (83.8%)

The keynote was very well-received by a full audience. The topic and delivery were broadly appreciated, underscoring its relevance and impact.

Panel: Best Practices in AI Model Deployment

- Did not attend: 2
- Attended: 35
- Rated 4 or 5: 29 (82.9%)

This panel was also highly valued, with strong interest in practical AI deployment topics. It may be worth expanding similar panels in the future.

Breakout 1: Experiences with Globus Compute

- Did not attend: 9
- Attended: 28
- Rated 4 or 5: 23 (82.1%)

This breakout session delivered solid value to attendees. With technical content resonating well, it supports continuing hands-on and real-world implementation sessions.

Breakout 2: OS Upgrades in HPC (CentOS → Ubuntu)

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- Did not attend: 23
- Attended: 14
- Rated 4 or 5: 13 (92.9%)

Despite low attendance, nearly all attendees found it highly valuable. This suggests the topic was niche but critical, consider targeted promotion to increase reach.

Lightning Talks

- Did not attend: 1
- Attended: 36
- Rated 4 or 5: 33 (91.7%)

The lightning format seems effective and engaging, continue this style in future programs.

Data Access vs. Monetization: Finding the Right Balance

- Did not attend: 7
- Attended: 30
- Rated 4 or 5: 23 (76.7%)

While a solid majority found this valuable, the percentage was a bit lower than others.

Breakout 3: ICICLE Middleware Development

- Did not attend: 18
- Attended: 19
- Rated 4 or 5: 14 (73.7%)

Moderate value, though attendance was low.

Breakout 4: Security & Compliance (CMMC)

- Did not attend: 19
- Attended: 18
- Rated 4 or 5: 16 (88.9%)

Strong value for those who attended. Despite lower attendance, the session clearly met a need. Consider keeping or expanding similar compliance-focused content.

Social Network Analysis/Activity

- Did not attend: 11
- Attended: 26
- Rated 4 or 5: 19 (73.1%)

Reasonably well-received, though slightly below the top-tier sessions.