



March 12, 2026

Brian Stone, Acting Director
National Science Foundation
2415 Eisenhower Avenue
Alexandria, VA 22314
Via email to NSF_NCAR@nsf.gov

Re: Response to Dear Colleague Letter, NSF Intent to Restructure Critical Weather Infrastructure, January 23, 2026 (NSF Critical Weather DCL)

Topic: Weather Modeling and Atmospheric Observing Capabilities

Internet2 appreciates the opportunity to provide input in response to the Dear Colleague Letter issued by the National Science Foundation (NSF) regarding the future of critical weather science infrastructure associated with the National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR).

For more than six decades, NCAR has played an important role in advancing atmospheric science and supporting the research community through shared observational platforms, modeling capabilities, and scientific collaboration. Internet2 supports the continued success of NCAR and the broader atmospheric science ecosystem supported by NSF investments. Internet2 believes that NCAR's mission, resources, and the hundreds of collaborative partners in the research and education (R&E) community would be well served by remaining cohesive and whole.

As NSF considers the future of these capabilities and core relationships across the weather science ecosystem, it will be important to ensure that the cyberinfrastructure supporting atmospheric science remains reliable, interoperable, and accessible to the research community. Internet2 offers the following observations based on its experience supporting national R&E infrastructure.

About Internet2

Internet2 is a nonprofit organization operated by and for the U.S. R&E community. Internet2 provides advanced networking, cloud connectivity, security services, and trust and identity infrastructure that support the nation's research enterprise. The Internet2 community includes more than 300 universities, 50 non-profit and federal affiliates, and 46 regional and state education networks.

Internet2 operates a national research network designed to support data-intensive scientific research across many disciplines, including climate science, high-energy physics, genomics, and artificial intelligence-enabled discovery. Internet2's network currently connects NCAR facilities in Boulder, CO, and the NCAR Wyoming Supercomputing Center in Cheyenne, WY, to universities and research institutions across the U.S.

Internet2 also operates InCommon, the U.S. R&E trust federation. InCommon includes more than 1,200 participating organizations and enables researchers, students, and staff to access shared scientific resources using their home institution credentials. Through participation in eduGAIN, the global interoperation service connecting more than 60 countries, InCommon also supports international research collaboration.

Cyberinfrastructure Considerations

The atmospheric science community depends on distributed research infrastructure that integrates observational platforms, computing resources, and high-capacity networks. These components support the collection, analysis, and sharing of weather and climate data among researchers and institutions.



The atmospheric science community relies on shared cyberinfrastructure services such as high-capacity networking, federated identity and access management, and trusted infrastructure that support secure collaboration across institutions.

High-capacity networking is important for the movement of observational datasets and model outputs between observing platforms, computing facilities, and research institutions. Federated identity services allow researchers to access shared scientific resources using credentials issued by their home institutions, thereby simplifying collaboration and reducing administrative overhead. Trusted infrastructure services protect research cyberinfrastructure while maintaining accessibility for authorized users.

These types of cyberinfrastructure services are widely used across NSF-funded research facilities and large-scale scientific collaborations. Internet2 operates several services in these areas as part of the broader R&E infrastructure, and we recommend that NSF investigate opportunities to improve NCAR's cyberinfrastructure resources to enable enhanced integration and collaboration with R&E partners.

Looking Ahead

Internet2 appreciates NSF's engagement with the research community as it considers the future of critical weather science infrastructure. Continued collaboration among domain science organizations, shared research facilities, and supporting cyberinfrastructure providers will remain important to the success of atmospheric and weather research in the U.S.

Internet2 looks forward to continuing to support the atmospheric science community and is available to work with NSF, NCAR, universities, and other partners as these discussions move forward.

Respectfully submitted,

----- /s/ Belinda Nixon

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