Campus Research Computing (CaRC) Consortium

Preliminary Stakeholder Map, 2017

NSF Award #1620695 RCN: Advancing Research and Education Through a National Network of Campus Research Computing Infrastructures - The CaRC Consortium

WayMark

Respondent profile (n=255) – Selected items

Select one:		Check all that apply:		Check all that apply:	
4.3%	CaRC Leadership	5.1%	Campus executive leadership	46.3%	Principal
6.7%	CaRC Council		(Provost, CIO, VPR)		Investigator
83.1%	Involved in RC, but not a member of CaRC	25.9%	Campus research computing leadership (VP, Director RC)	24.7%	Research software
5.9%	Other	25.1%	Campus IT services (systems,		developer
Years e	Years experience in primary role:		security, networking, engineering)	18.0%	Research team
16.7%	Under 5 years	36.5%	Campus RC facilitators (not part of		member
23.0%	5-10 years		CaRC or ACI-REF)	2.4%	Government
29.4%	11-20 years	24.7%	Campus RC/data science instructor		research lab
19.8%	21-30 years	26.7%	Campus IT/RC training and		
11.1%	Over 30 years		workforce development		
	Gender:		XSEDE Campions (campus champion, domain champion, student champion)		
18%	Female	7.8%	ACI-REF Facilitator		
80.4%	Male	16.9%	CASC Leader or member		
1.6%	Prefer not to answer				
		18.4%	XSEDE leader or member		

Universities with one or more responses

- 1. Albany State University
- 2. Arizona State University Auburn University at Montgomery
- 4. Austin Peay State University
- 5. Binghamton University
- 6. Boise State University
- 7. Boston University
- Brandeis University 9. Brown University
- 10. Caltech
- 11. Carnegie Mellon University
- 12. Case Western Reserve University 13. Clemson University
- 14. Clinton College and JPRA, LLC
- 15. Colorado School of Mines 16. Colorado State University
- 17. Columbia University
- 18. Earlham College
- 19. Florida Atlantic University
- 20. Florida International University
- 21. Florida Southern College
- 22. Florida State University
- 23. George Mason University
- 24. George Washington University,
- The 25. Georgia Institute of Technology
- 26. Georgia Southern University
- 27. Harvard University
- 28. Idaho State University
- 29. Indiana University
- 30. Iowa State University
- 31. Johns Hopkins University 32. Juniata College

46. New Mexico State University 47. New York University 48. NOAA/OAR/NSSL

Applications 44. NCAR

49. Noble Research Institute 50. North Carolina State University

33. Kansas State University

36. Lehigh University

38. Marshall University

35. KINBER

34. Kennesaw State University

37. Louisiana State University

39. Michigan State University

41. Montana State University

42. Montana State University

40. Middle Tennessee State University

43. National Center for Supercomputing

45. New Jersey Institute of Technology

- 51. Northeastern University
- 52. Northwest Missouri State University
- 53. Northwestern University 54. Ohio State University, The
- 55. Ohio State University, James Cancer
- Hospital Comprehensive Cancer
- Center The
- 56. Ohio Supercomputer Center 57. Oklahoma Innovation Institute.
- Tulsa Research Partners consortium
- 58. Oklahoma State University
- 59. Old Dominion University
- 60. Penn State University 61. Pittsburgh Supercomputing Center

- 62. Portland State University 63. Purdue University
- 64. Rice University 65. Rochester Institute of
- Technology Rowan University
- 67. San Diego State University 68. Shodor Education Foundation 69. South Dakota State University
- Southern CT State University Southern Illinois University
- 72. Southwestern Oklahoma State
- University
- 73. Stanford
- 74. Stanford University 75. Stony Brook University 76. SUNY, Genesco
- 77. Texas A&M University
- 78. Texas A&M University, Corpus
- Christi The Jackson Laboratory
- 80. UCAR
- 81. University of Alaska, Fairbanks

- University of Ariaska, rail dail
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 University of Benin
 University of Buffalo, SUNY
- 86. University of California, Merced 87. University of California,
- 88. University of California, Irvine 89. University of California, Los
- Angeles 90. University of California, San
- Diego 91. University of California, Santa Barbara

92. University of Chicago 93. University of Cincinna 94. University of Colorado 95. University of Colorado, Boulder 96. University of Connecticut 97. University of Florida 98. University of Georgia 99. University of Hawaii 100.University of Houston 101.University of Illinois, Chicago 102.University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign 103.University of Illinois, NCSA 104.University of Iowa 105.University of Kansas 106.University of Louisville 107.University of Maryland 108.University of Miami 109.University of Michigan 110.University of Minnesota 111.University of Minnesota 112.University of Mississippi

113.University of Missouri 114.University of Missouri Columbia 115.University of Missouri, St Louis 116.University of Nebraska 117.University of Nebraska, Lincoln 118.University of Nevada, Las Vegas 119.University of Nevada, Reno 120.University of New Hampshire 121.University of New Mexico

122.University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill 123.University of North Carolina, Wilmington

124.University of North Dakota 125.University of Notre Dame 126.University of Oklahoma. The 127.University of Pittsburgh 122.University of Pittsburgh 128.University of Rhode Island 129.University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma 130.University of South Alabama 131.University of South Aubania 132.University of South Dakota 133.University of South Florida 134.University of Southern California 135.University of Southern California, Marshal School of Business 136.University of Tennessee 137.University of Texas, Austin 138.University of Texas. Dallas 139.University of the Virgin Islands 140.University of Utah, The 141.University of Virginia 142.University of Waterloo 143.University of Wisconsin, Madison 144.University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee 145.University of Wisconsin System 146.University of Wyoming 147.Vassar College 148.Virginia Tech

149.West Virginia State University 150.Yale University

If CaRC Consortium could deliver one thing to you, "a must have," what would it be? (Something that you personally value or that is professionally useful to you. It would motivate you to want this to move forward.)

knowledge professional litators 5 community funding institutions campus support sharing career information computationa professionals

Size of words in illustration based on frequency in qualitative responses to the question.

Illustrative "Must Have" responses (with approximate distribution). Note that many responses span multiple categories (so percentages are approximate).

Standardized practices and training (31%)

- Standardized best-practices that are adopted by multiple institutions
- A means for teaching at least some basic best practices to all researchers who use advanced computing.
- HPC Carpentry (like software/data carpentry), workshops that scale and train the trainers and nurture powerful user groups
- Basic HPC course materials at an undergraduate level

Community of practice (18%)

- Easy to find people working on similar issues simultaneously across colleges and universities
- A shared community across HPC/RC sys admins
- Exposure to advances in cyberinfrastructure development at other research-tier universities so I can gain insight and ideas for continued NSF ACI proposal writing and funding.

Resource use and sharing (18%)

- Help campuses become part of a federation of shared resources
- Easy access to computational resources (CPU time and storage) without needing to know details about high performance computing architecture
- Making used equipment available when HPC providers retire equipment.
- Seamless cross-campus access to supplement lack of cores, or for when cores are down (failure or maintenance)

Career development (13%)

- Recognition of research computing professionals as a profession and defining career path
- Improved development of career tracks and pipelines for new CI workers/leadership

Illustrative "Must Have" responses (with approximate distribution). Note that many responses span multiple categories (so percentages are approximate).

Career development (13%) (cont.)

- A model or program for self-development, with a competitive edge, like a competition but just the right fit to get me motivated to learn.
- Additional release time
- Advancing research (6%)
- Democratize the long tail of HPC
- Gateways, portals to facilitate use of HPC by non-computational scientists
- Modernizing the delivery of research computing support to go beyond HPC
- Analysis of next generation sequencing data
- Better coordination of cross-institutional research initiatives

Awareness and leadership support (6%)

- Institutional validation and support for research computing
- Concrete justification/examples/ROI, administration-level focus

Funding (4%)

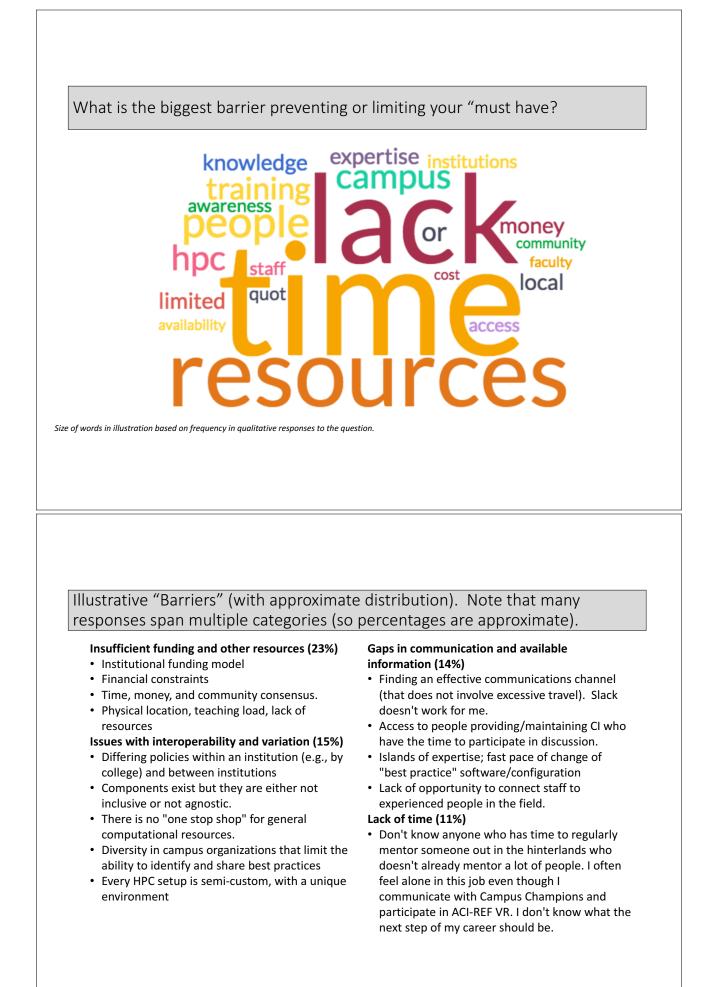
- Sustainable funding model
- Universal access and long- term accounts to well supported resources (e.g. XSEDE)

Regulatory compliance and policy support (1%)

• Solutions that meet regulatory requirements (HIPPA, NIST 800-171, DFARS, etc.)

Misc. (4%)

- Outreach to undergraduate and community college institutions
- · Unsure waiting to see what develops
- Pizza



Illustrative "Barriers" (with approximate distribution). Note that many responses span multiple categories (so percentages are approximate).

Lack of time (11%) (cont.)

- Time to work with all the great service providers to get them to buy in to the unified access point and one stop shop idea.
- The extreme pressure that many researchers have to "just make it work" as fast as possible.

Status of research computing (7%)

- Unclear role of research computing in the bigger IT picture of universities
- A social organization requires management to support the time committed by the staff at each campus.

Absence of a coordinating group (7%)

- No broad-based group that really focuses on this.
- Lack of sustained support and well established institutional models for supporting research computing

Absence of a coordinating group (7%) (cont.)

• Currently fragmented organizations, no formal venue for sharing (other than venues like Educause, CASC, et al which aren't ideal)

Lack of consensus (3%)

- Lack of consensus in the field concerning job descriptions and names
- Too much confusion between facilitators and other professionals. We need to get our story straight...
- Lack of salient training programs and differences in opinion about professionalization of workforce (norms, certifications, etc.)

Challenges for smaller universities (3%)

- Enough peer university (or lower tier university) sharing/examples
- Resources exclusively devoted to research universities

Illustrative "Barriers" (with approximate distribution). Note that many responses span multiple categories (so percentages are approximate).

Competition in the community (2%)

- Political competition for funding and due credit...both institutionally and at the nat'l level.
- Grants are usually very competitive and private. Difficult to achieve a public and open discussion.

Lack of professional development opportunities (2%)

- The lack of paths to advancement in my career at my institution
- Lack of clear development in this profession

Misc. (11%)

- Most grants are geared towards tenure-stream faculty with science research focus
- · Communications to individual faculty is difficult
- Firewall and security issues
- Resistance to change

Top interests (not important=0; very important=1; very difficult=0; very easy=1)

Rank by importance:

- 1. Workforce development for cyberinfrastructure administrators and staff (mean=.84)
- 2. Supporting facilitators (broadly defined) on campus, bridging between research teams and research computing resources (mean=.84)
- Research computing expertise sharing among universities (mean=.84)

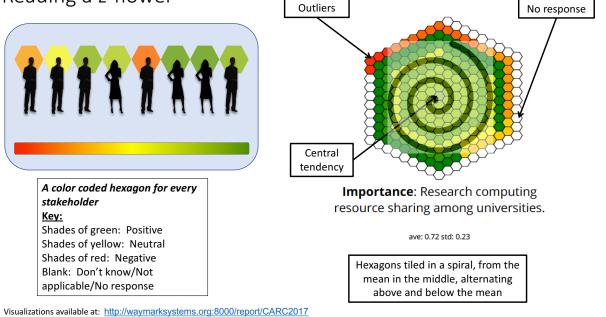
Rank by difficulty:

- Influencing state and federal policies impacting research cyberinfrastructure (mean=.18)
- Research computing resource sharing among universities (mean=.26)
- 3. Effective models for demonstrating return on investment (ROI) in research computing resources (mean=.26)

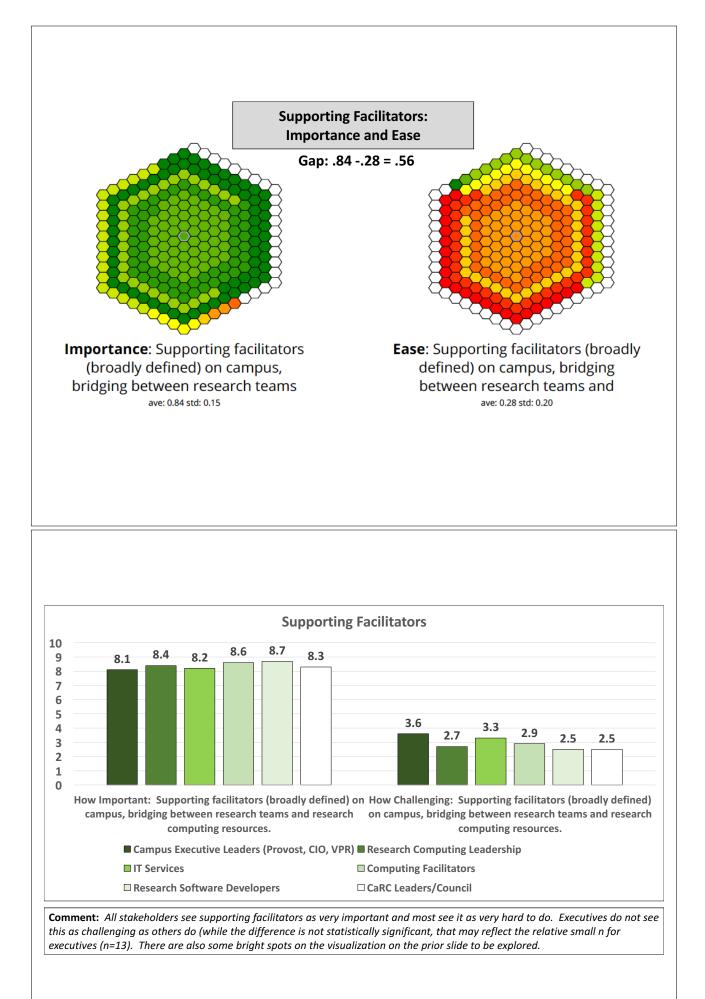
Gaps between importance and difficulty:

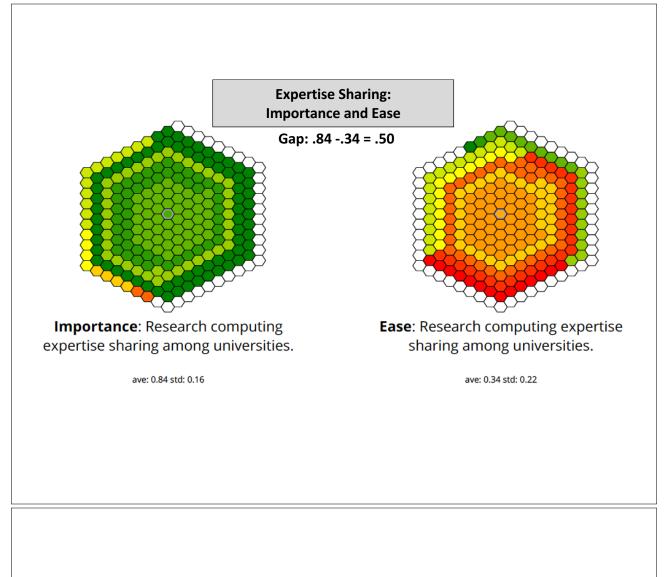
- Influencing state and federal policies impacting research cyberinfrastructure (gap=.59)
- 2. Workforce development for cyberinfrastructure administrators and staff (gap=.56)
- 3. Supporting facilitators (broadly defined) on campus, bridging between research teams and research computing resources (gap=.56)

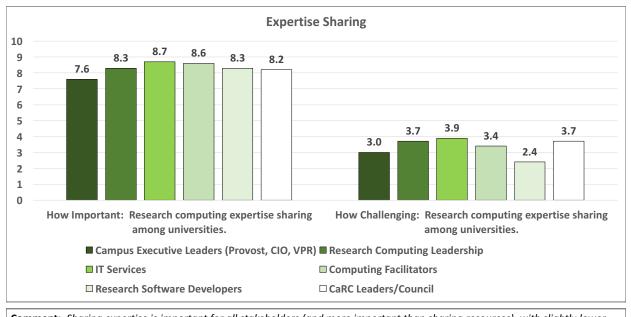
Reading a z-flower[™]









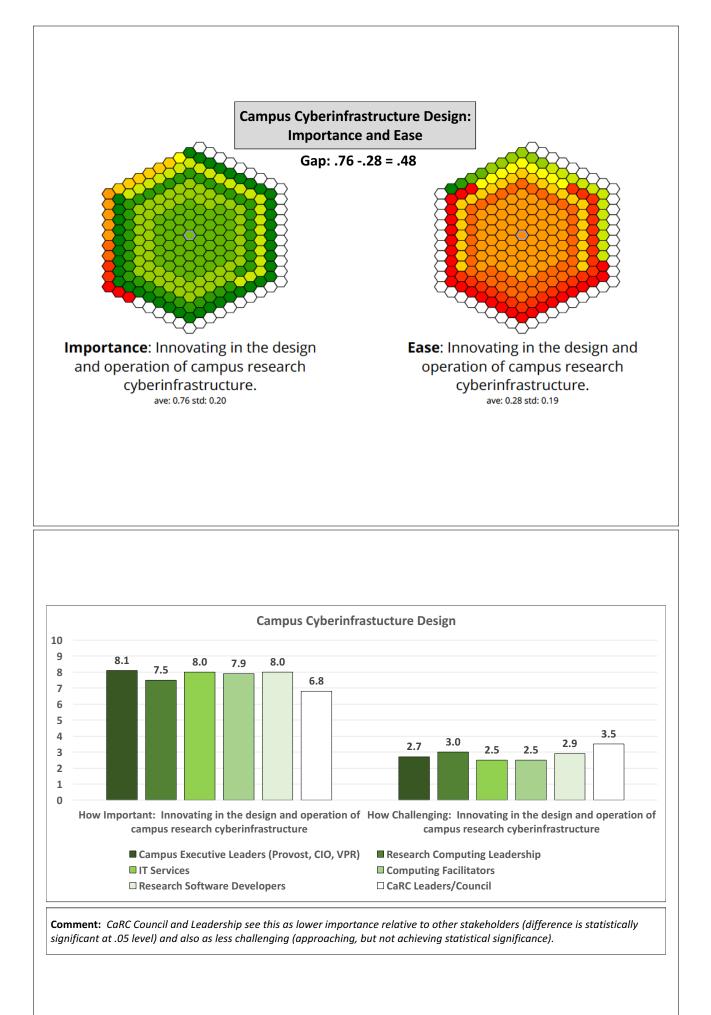


Comment: Sharing expertise is important for all stakeholders (and more important than sharing resources), with slightly lower importance by campus executive leaders. Research software developers see this as the the most challenging (though the difference is not statistically significant). There are some bright spots on the "how challenging" visualization to be investigate.

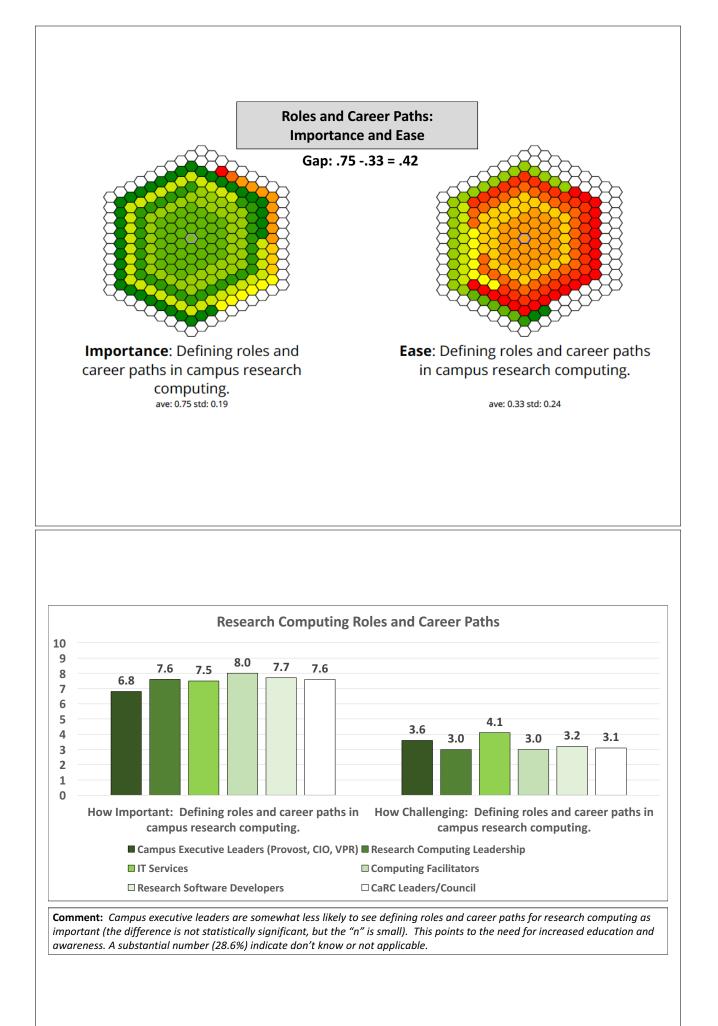














 Creating value (1,228 pts., 45 people) Building a shared vision (766 pts., 28 people) Sharing a sense of urgency (294 pts., 11 people) Mitigating risk (80 pts., 3 people) Maintaining dependable funding (1,590 pts., 58 people) Making metrics visible (430 pts., 16 people) Making metrics visible (430 pts., 16 people) Providing effective incentives (374 pts., 14 people) Ensuring transparent information (295 pts., 11 people) Specifying roles/responsibilities (216 pts., 8 people) Ensuring effective leadership (728 pts., 27 people) Ensuring effective leadership (728 pts., 27 people) Ensuring effective communication (672 pts., 25 people) Supporting problem-solving in decisions (80 pts., 3 people) Ensuring effective cooperation (644 pts., 25 people) Appreciating shared and separate interests (478 pts., 1 people) Being open to change (401 pts., 15 people) Transforming underlying assumptions (138 pts., 5 people) Ensuring effective leadership (728 pts., 27 people) Ensuring effective technology architecture (695 pts., 26 people) Addressing disruptive technology changes (666 pts., 25 people) Addressing disruptive technology changes (666 pts., 25 people) Using shared technology standards (487 pts., 18 people) 				
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	 Fostering inclusivity in decision making (216 pts., 8 	people)		
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Rating challenges facing CaRC (all items together)

- 1. Maintaining dependable **funding** (1,590 pts., 58 people)
- 2. Creating value (1,228 pts., 45 people)
- Ensuring effective learning and education (1,084 pts., 40 people)
- 4. Building a shared vision (766 pts., 28 people)
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- 10. Using shared **technology standards** (487 pts., 18 people)
- 11. Appreciating shared and separate interests (478 pts., 18 people)
- 12. Making metrics visible (430 pts., 16 people)

- 13. Being open to change (401 pts., 15 people)
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- 16. Sharing a sense of urgency (294 pts., 11 people)
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- 18. Specifying roles/responsibilities (216 pts., 8 people)
- 19. Fostering **inclusivity** in decision making (216 pts., 8 people)
- 20. Transforming underlying assumptions (138 pts., 5 people)
- 21. Sustaining trust (134 pts., 5 people)
- 22. Ensuring constructive competition (108 pts., 4 people)
- 23. Supporting **problem-solving** in decisions (80 pts., 3 people)
- 24. Mitigating risk (80 pts., 3 people)
- 25. Reinforcing shared values (53 pts., 2 people)
- 26. Providing timely feedback (52 pts., 2 people)
- 27. Ensuring effective conflict resolution (27 pts., 1 people)

If you could use one phrase or metaphor to summarize your current view of the CaRC Consortium what would it be?

- Why another org?
- Was unaware of its mission before today.
- What is CaRC exactly and how does it work?
- Yet another valiant effort to give structure to a vital resource...hopefully it will succeed!
- · Birds of a Feather looking for a roost.
- Be more inclusive.
- Byzantine.
- The CaRC Consortium is a cyberinfrastructure guild.
- Nascent.
- I think of it as ACI-REF, similar to XSEDE/ECSS support
- Understaffed to serve the very many and very diverse needs
- An important effort but needs to be defined and publicized better.
- I hear their lunch at SC every year is pretty awesome.

- Umbrella of support for research computing roles.
- Bridge building; leveraging successes across campuses
- CaRC is attempting to bridge a great divide among coequal (not really, but we all think we're equal) computational resource centers and bring them together
- · Supporting those who support researchers.
- Scalable, transformative.
- A Family.
- Looking to the future of HPC in the US.
- The "Google" of Research Computing.
- National coordination community.
- A research computing enabling organization.
- Building a cyberinfrastructure ecosystem.
- A weaver, using a system to pull together vastly different threads into something greater.

Please use one sentence to summarize your vision of success for CaRC Consortium.

- A national forum for the exchange and dissemination of best practices, expertise, and technologies to enable the advancement of campus-based research computing activities. ref: <u>http://newsstand.clemson.edu/clemson-nsf-carcconsortium/</u>
- The vision articulated in the survey is correct.
- CaRC would be successful if it provide a sustainable community of best practice for improving the ability of researchers to take advantage of advanced cyberinfrastructure.
- Built on the success of those that came before, CaRC can become a more effective and more inclusive community of practice.
- Being more effective in professional and career development of advanced computing resources facilitators.
- Shared community to advance RC everywhere.

- Sustainability of CI through career development.
- 95% Standardization, 5% Innovation. The "position is everywhere, momentum is therefore zero" problem is still very much in effect.
- CaRC makes it much simpler to learn from successes and mistakes, across the broad set of member institutions.
- Shared resources for small and large schools alike.
- Grad students know how to do and share repeatable analysis on Linux.
- Developing active and productive research computing teams at institutions.
- CaRC would be successful if it could create effective communities of practice for computing professionals.
- CaRC is lowering barriers to advanced research computing.

Please use one sentence to summarize your vision of success for CaRC Consortium. (cont.)

- Material artifacts produced (training, standards, best practices, shared definitions)
- Membership grows rapidly for the next two years.
- Helping me help my administration and researchers.
- Establishes a home for cyberinfrastructure facilitators without increasing institutional expense.
- Membership in CaRC consortium is 90% of universities with research computing groups and strong participation of research computing professionals in SIGs.
- To build on what already exists, and not setup a new power structure,
- I would like to see CaRC as an extended version of the XSEDE campus champions, where non-XSEDE support staff can go to learn new and/or best practices.

- One stop shop to satisfy global research needs.
- Success would be the empowerment of facilitators and researchers to achieve science they may not have been able to without this collaboration of knowledge.
- "A rising tide floats all boats." Observe the impact on HPC as a whole, nationwide.
- Optimal use of cybersystem resources for solving challenging and pressing research problems.

Additional Notes:

- I hear it costs money for an institution to be a member, which means my institution will never be a member. As such, I don't know how CaRC will benefit me or the researchers I support.
- Please include opportunities for Minorities and HBCUs.
- Thank-you for leading this work.