“The CENIC AI Resource CENIC AIR”

CENIC Retreat 2025:
July 16, 2025

Dr. Larry Smarr
Founding Director Emeritus, California Institute for Telecommunications and Information Technology;
Distinguished Professor Emeritus, Dept. of Computer Science and Engineering
Jacobs School of Engineering, UC San Diego

NRP NATIONAL RESEARCH PLATFORM

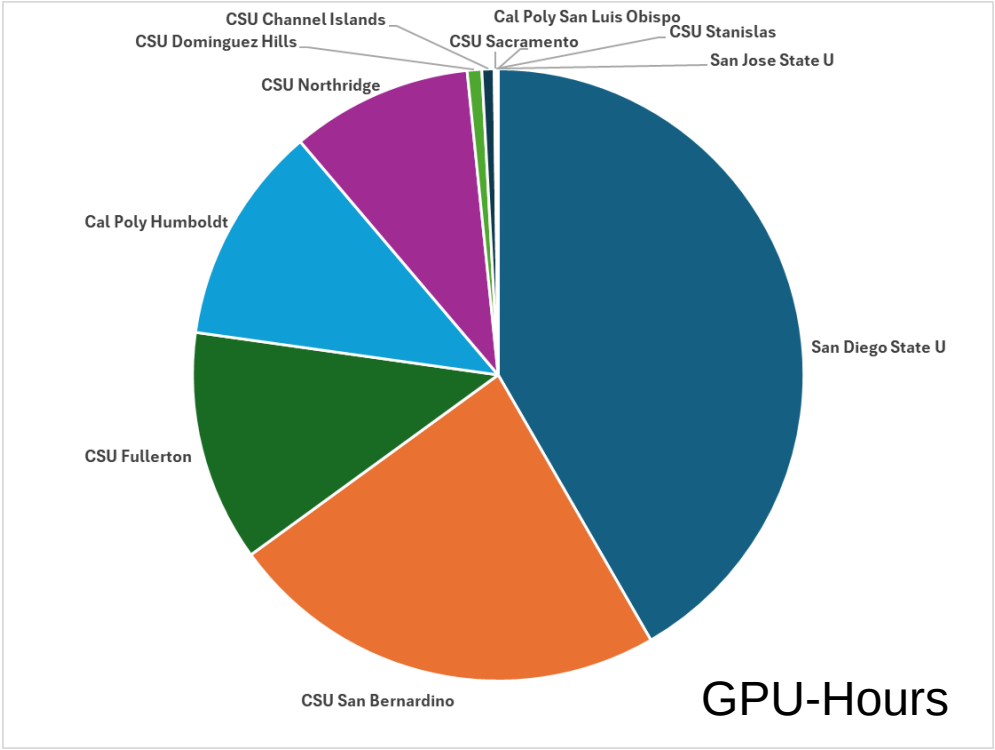
CENIC AIR

NRP Nautilus

11 of 23 CSUs Had CENIC AIR Jupyter Hub GPU Users In the Last 12 Months

July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025

CSU	#Users	GPU-Hours
San Diego State U	112	72,549
CSU San Bernardino	54	40,598
CSU Fullerton	44	21,275
Cal Poly Humboldt	19	20,141
CSU Northridge	9	16,677
CSU Dominguez Hills	4	1,339
CSU Channel Islands	4	1,132
CSU Sacramento	2	140
CSU Stanislas	4	98
San Jose State U	1	93
Cal Poly San Luis Obispo	2	28
Grand Total	259	176,562



259 CSU Users
Consumed 176,562 GPU-Hours

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CENIC ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE RESOURCES

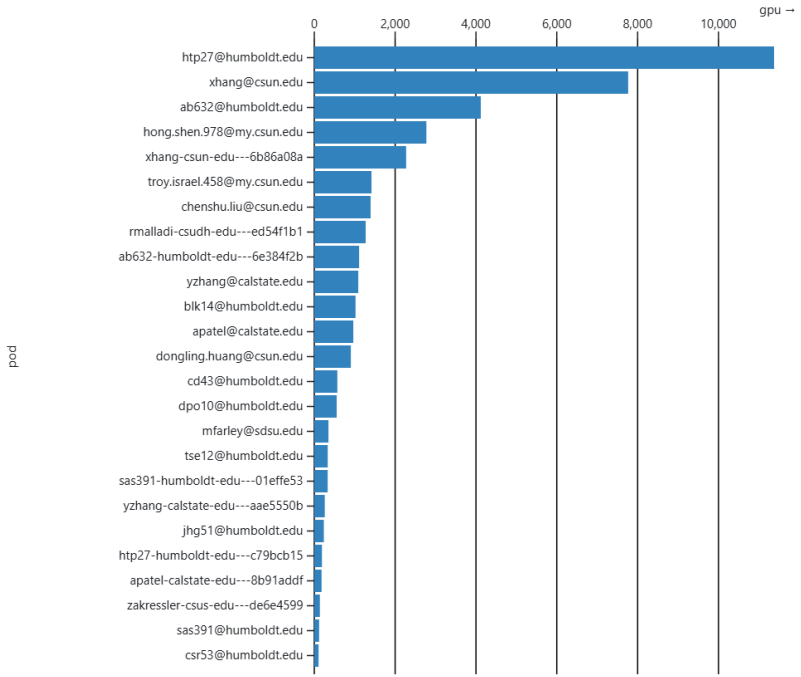
NRP Nautilus

Largest SDSU TIDE JupyterHub Users

July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025

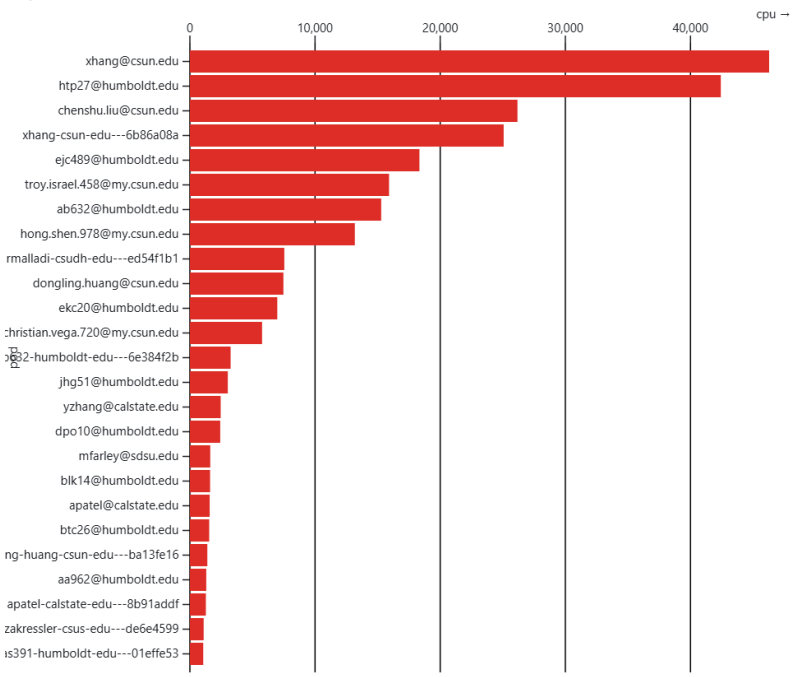
Generic GPU Hours Allocated

Top 25 Users out of 50



CPU Hours Allocated

Top 25 Users out of 74



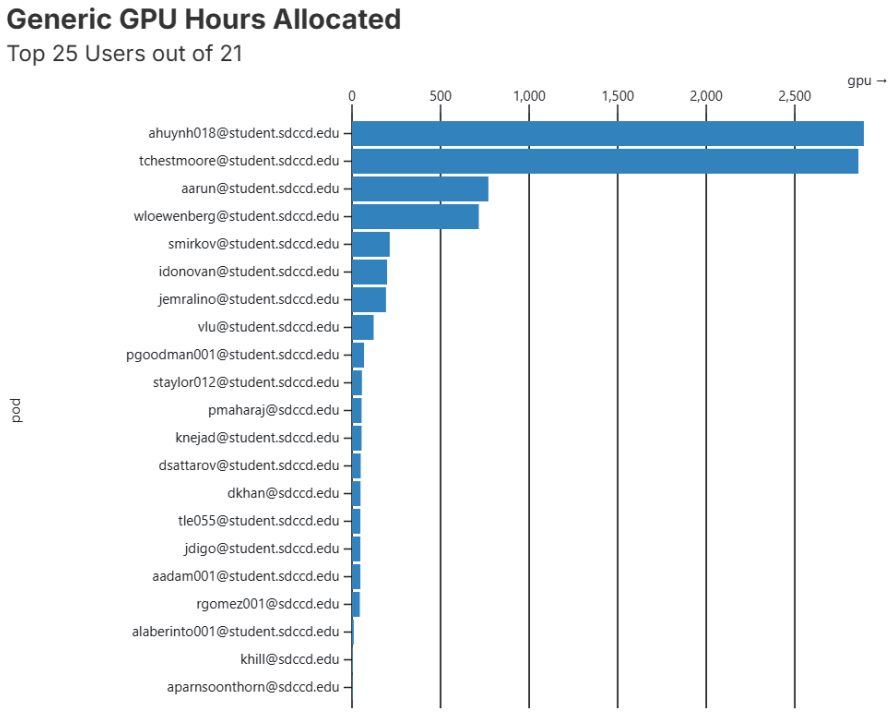
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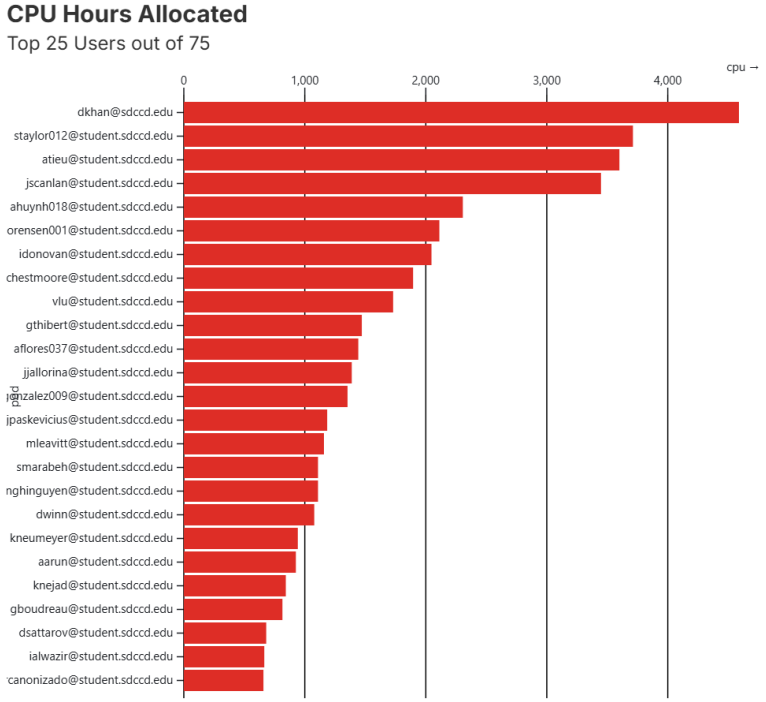
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Largest SDCCD JupyterHub Users

July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025





sdccd-jupyterhub-prod
sdccd-jupyterhub-dev

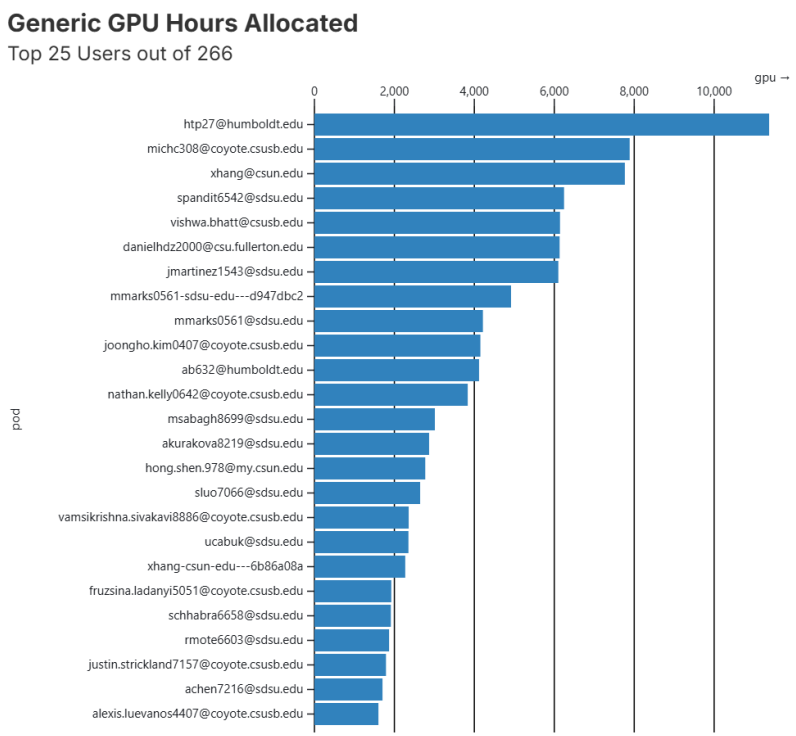
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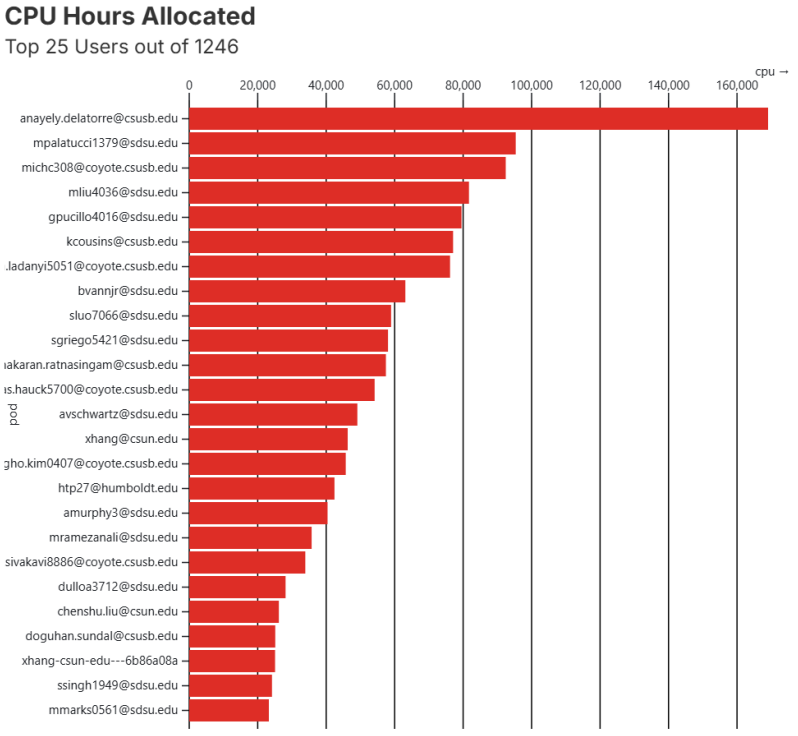
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CSU Users All CSU JupyterHubs

July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025





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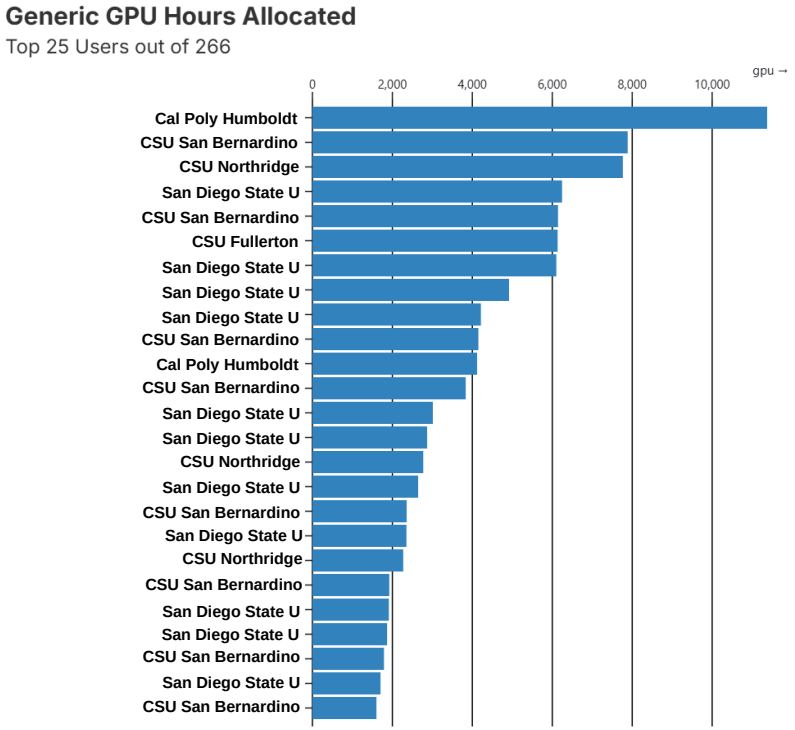
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Largest GPU-Hour CSU Users On 43 CSU JupyterHubs

July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025

JupyterHub CSU Users:

- Cal Poly Humboldt
- CSU Fullerton
- CSU Northridge
- CSU San Bernardino
- San Diego State U

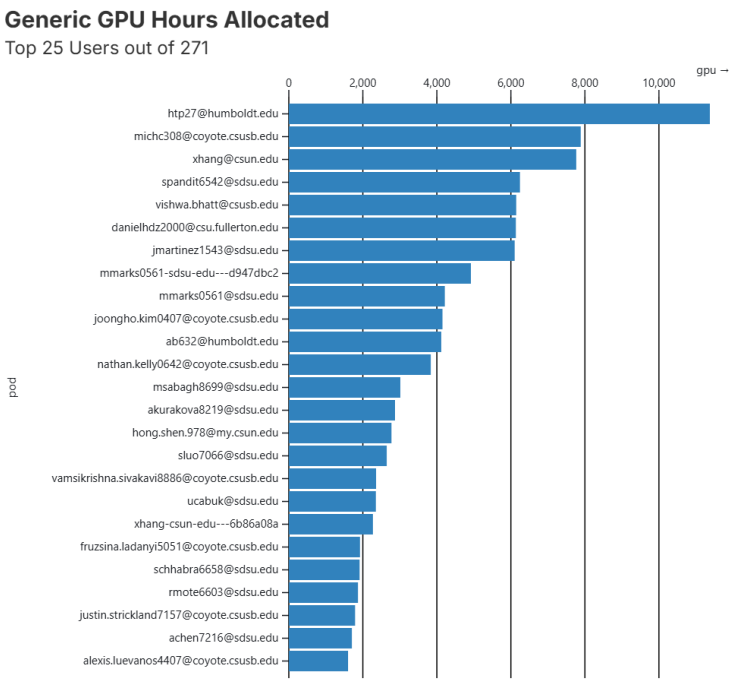


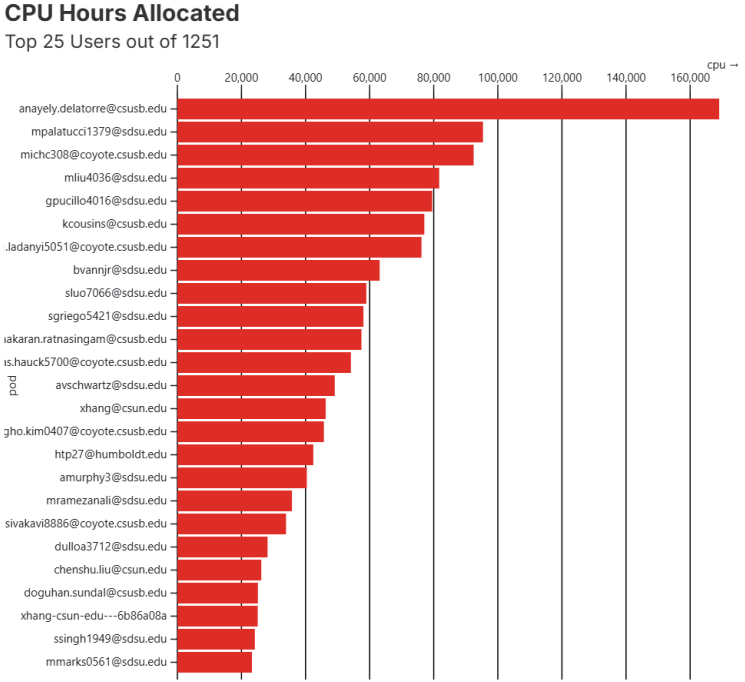
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Updated



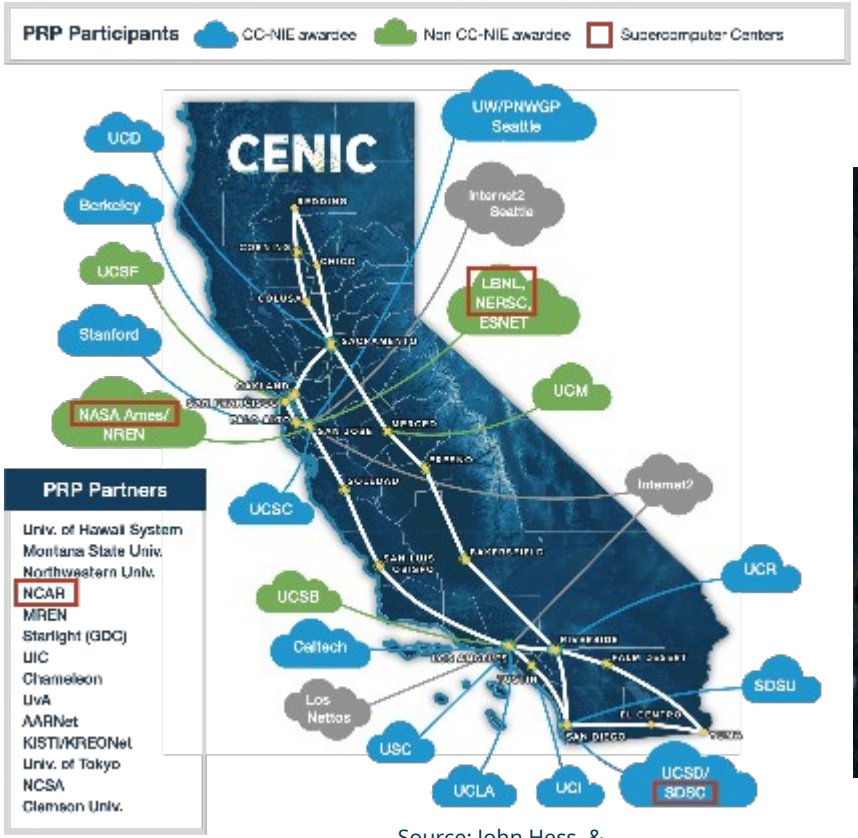


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2015 Vision: The Pacific Research Platform Will Connect Research Campuses Using CENIC to Create a Regional Community Cyberinfrastructure



Source: John Hess, & Hunter Hadaway, CENIC

NSF CC*DNI Grant
$6.3M 10/2015-10/2020
Extended – Ended Year 7 in Oct 2022



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Data Transfer Nodes (DTNs) Terminate CENIC's Fiber Optics on Campuses: Flash I/O Network Appliances (FIONAs)

FIONAs Solved the Disk-to-Disk Data Transfer Problem at Near Full Speed on Best-Effort 10G, 40G and 100G



Add Up to 8 Nvidia GPUs Per 2U FIONA
To Add Machine Learning Capability
Up to 240TB Storage



FIONAs Are Rack Mounted

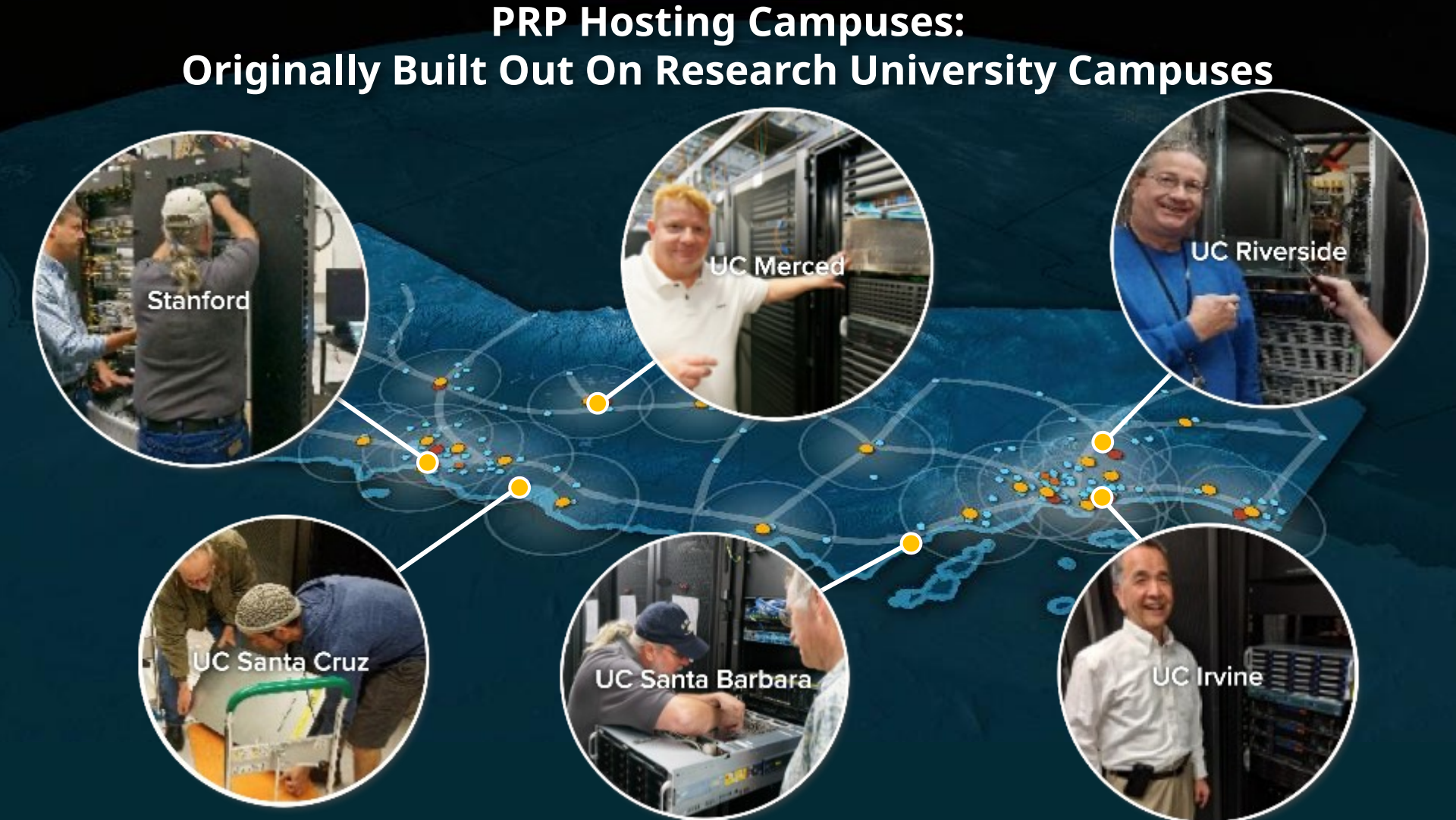
FIONAs Designed by UCSD's Phil Papadopoulos, John Graham, Joe Keefe, and Tom DeFanti

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PRP Hosting Campuses:
Originally Built Out On Research University Campuses



2023 - The National Research Platform Emerges From the Pacific Research Platform

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NEWS GRANTS TECHNOLOGY COMMUNITY JOIN / CONTACT



Professor Frank Würthwein

- Director - SDSC
- Distributed High-Throughput Computing Lead - SDSC

Designed for Growth and Inclusion

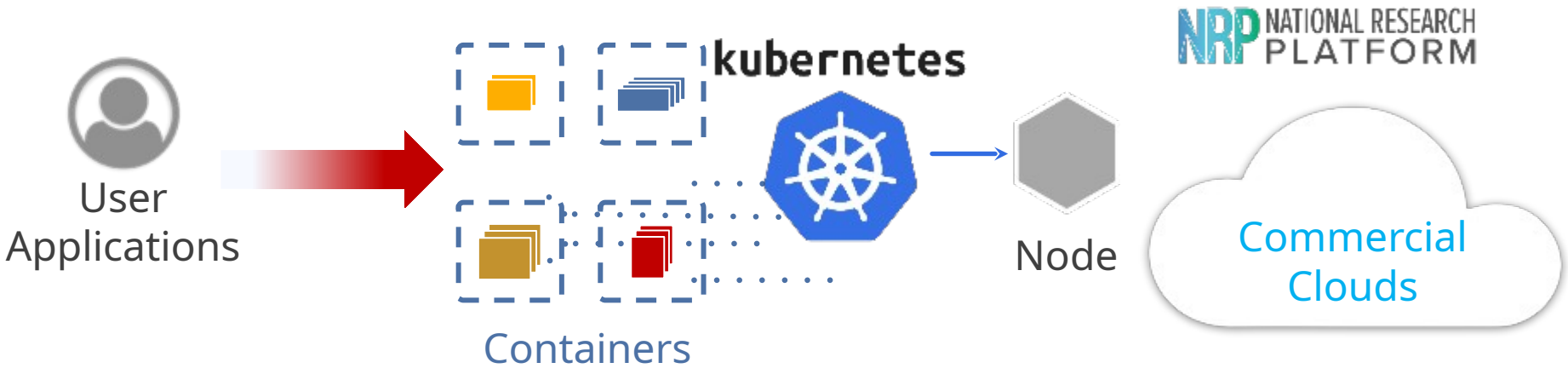
The National Research Platform (NRP) is a partnership of more than 50 institutions, led by researchers and cyberinfrastructure professionals at UC San Diego, supported in part by awards from the National Science Foundation.

https://nationalresearchplatform.org/

Users Can Execute Their Containerized Applications in the NRP or in Commercial Clouds

Nautilus Containerized Applications Are “Cloud Ready”

Nautilus



Nautilus is NRP's Multi-Institution Hypercluster Which Creates a Community Owned and Operated "AI Resource"

May 9, 2024

~200 FIONAs on 27 Partner Campuses
Networked Together at 10-100Gbps

Installed GPUs	Installed CPU Cores	Rotating Storage
1210	23855	7000 TB

CENIC

THE QUILT

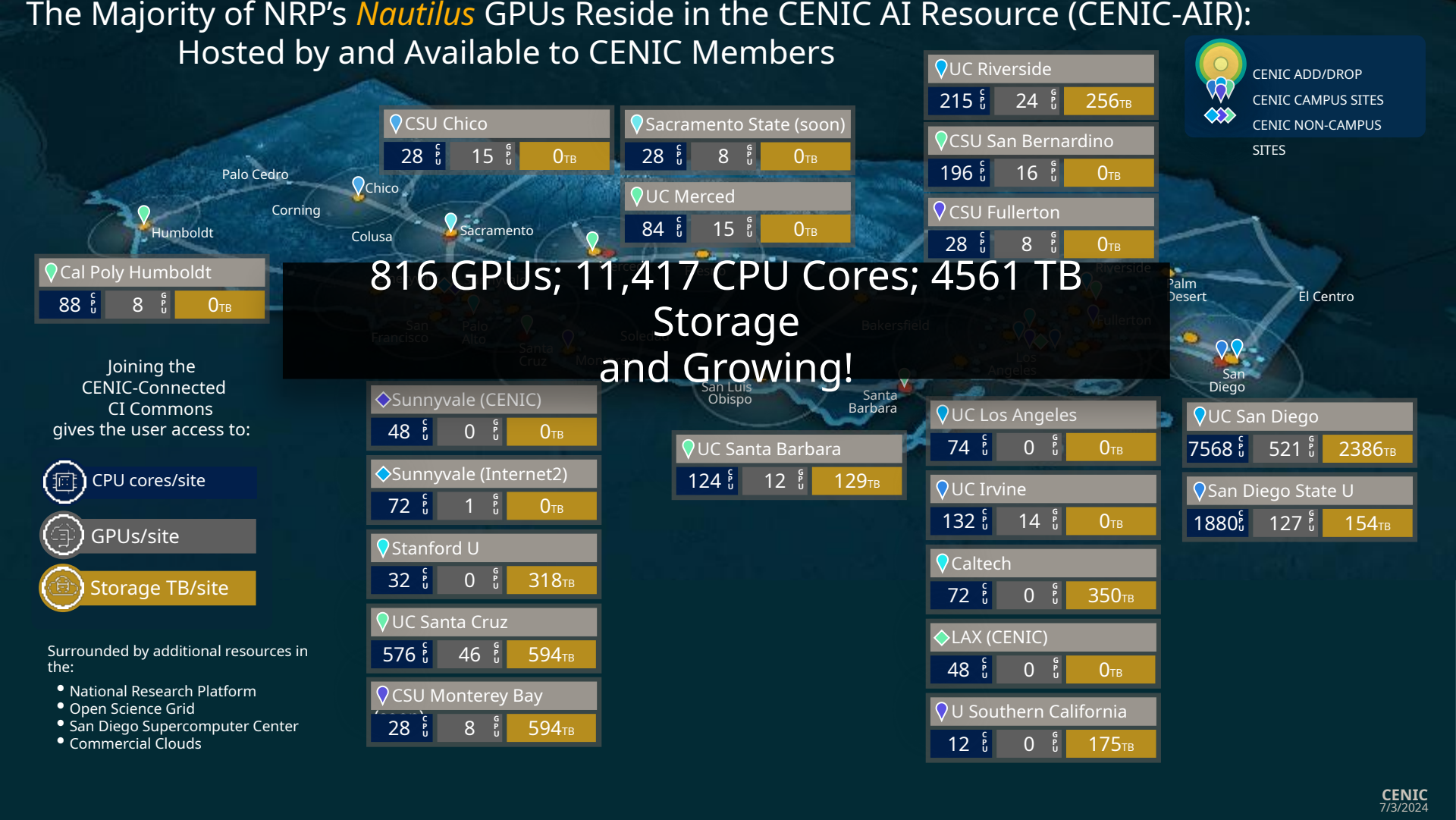
INTERNET 2

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The Majority of NRP's *Nautilus* GPUs Reside in the CENIC AI Resource (CENIC-AIR): Hosted by and Available to CENIC Members



CENIC
7/3/2024

Accelerating the Development of California's AI/ML Workforce By Using CENIC-AIR for Campus Courses

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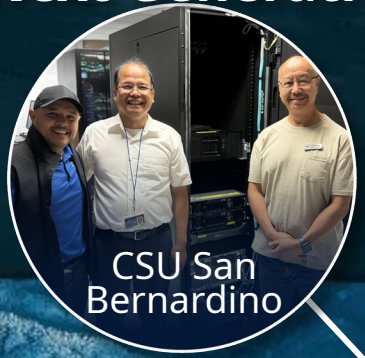
California's Research & Education Campuses are Regionally Organized



CENIC AIR Hosting Campuses: CSUs & CCCs – The Next Generation


CSU Chico


Sacramento State U


CSU San Bernardino


San Diego Community College Dist.

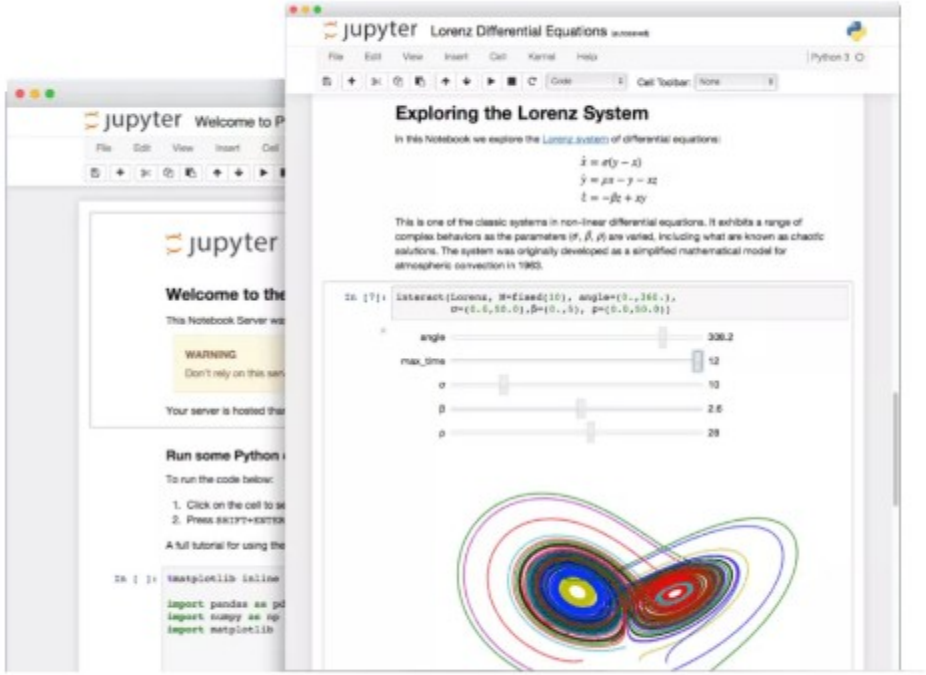

Cal Poly Humboldt


Monterey Bay


CSU Fullerton


San Diego State U

Jupyter Notebooks
Have Become The Popular Method of Sharing Computational Documents



Jupyter Notebook: The Classic Notebook Interface

The Jupyter Notebook is the original web application for creating and sharing computational documents. It offers a simple, streamlined, document-centric experience.

Try it in your browser | Install the Notebook

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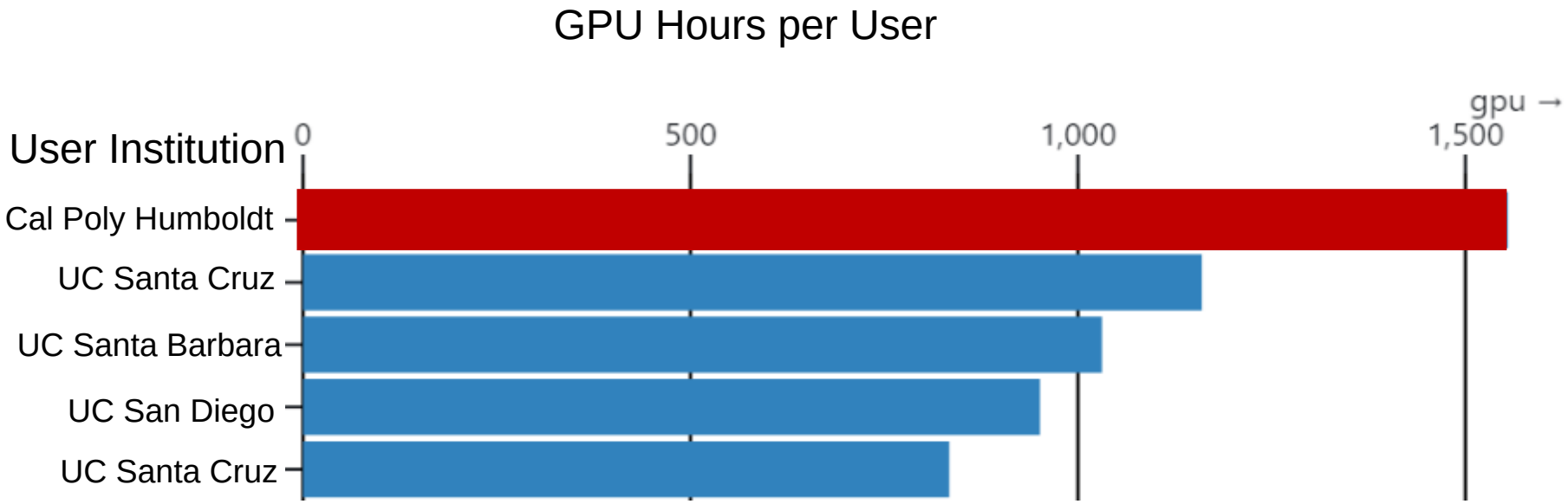
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jupyterhub is the Multi-User Version of the Jupyter Notebook



Nautilus Namespace Jupyterlab Has an Active jupyterhub: Jupyterlab's Top 5 GPU-Hour Users Over Last 4 Months



Users Are Identified Only by Email Addresses

Tom DeFanti Emailed the Largest GPU User of Namespace Jupyterlab, Asking “Who Are You and What is Your Research Project?”

We Received This Reply:

– **“Wow! Who’d have thought a botanist would be using the most GPU resources 😂”**

- **Alana Chin**
- **Assistant Professor of Plant Physiology**
- **Cal Poly Humboldt**



I am running some big Fully Convolutional Network (FCN) models to segment some of the highest resolution CT scans ever made on cores of wood collected from redwood trunks across their full height, up to 100 m above ground.

We are segmenting out tissue types for 3D measurements and brightness histograms to understand wood density and hydraulic parameters.”

UCSD's Information Technology Services Has Adapted NRP FIONA8s To Support Students in Data Science (DS) & Machine Learning (ML) Courses



SDSC Racked

FIONAs:

- 132 32-bit GPUs (10% NRP)
- 1024 CPU-cores
- 10/100G Networking
- Not Federated With NRP

Software Used By Stud

PyTorch

TensorFlow

Caffe

jupyter

ANACONDA

NumPy

NVIDIA CUDA

kubernetes

docker

Source: Adam Tilghman, UCSD ITS
Data Science/ML Platform - 2/2024 Update

- **Student-Focused Platform For:**
  - Undergraduate & Graduate Coursework
  - For-Credit Independent Study
  - Thesis/Dissertation Research
  - Capstones & Projects
- **Research-Driven Architecture**
- **Managed by UCSD IT Services**

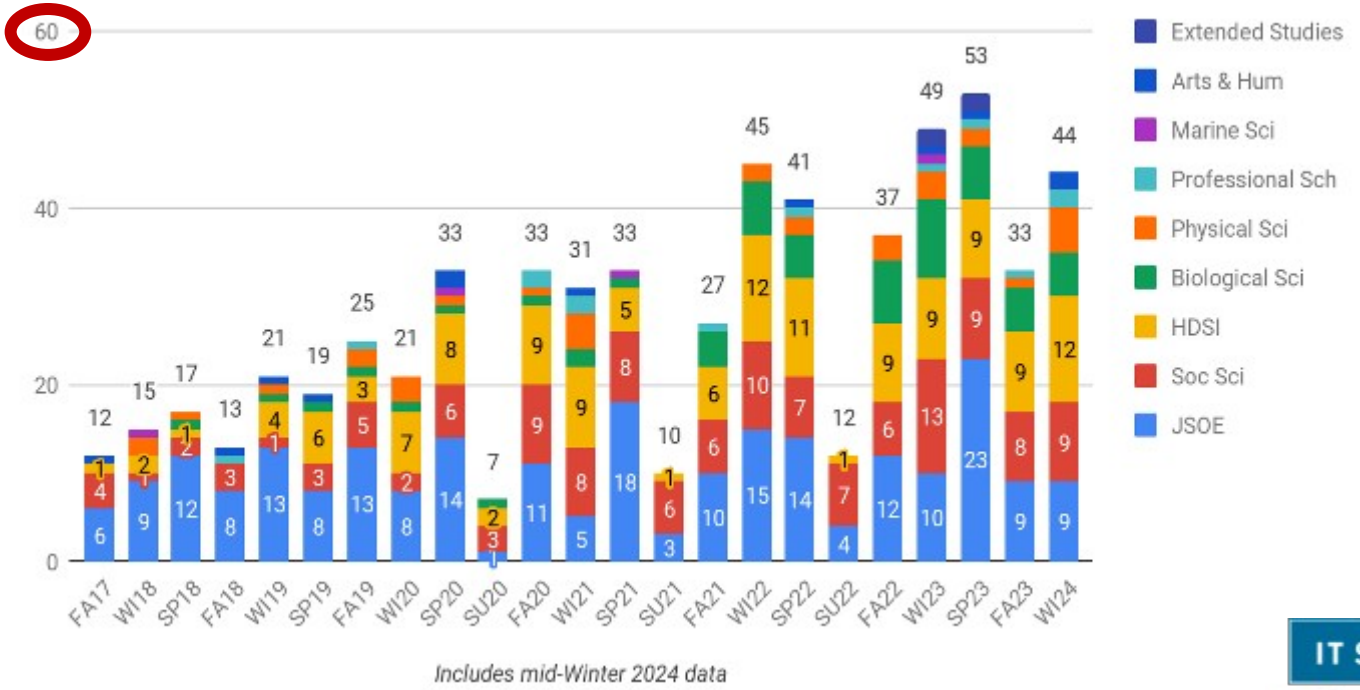
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IT SERVICES
UC San Diego

NRP Nautilus

UC San Diego's DS/ML Platform Has Supported Up To Nearly 60 Courses Over the Last Six Years



Includes mid-Winter 2024 data

Source: Adam Tilghman, UCSD ITS

Data Science/ML Platform - 2/2024 Update

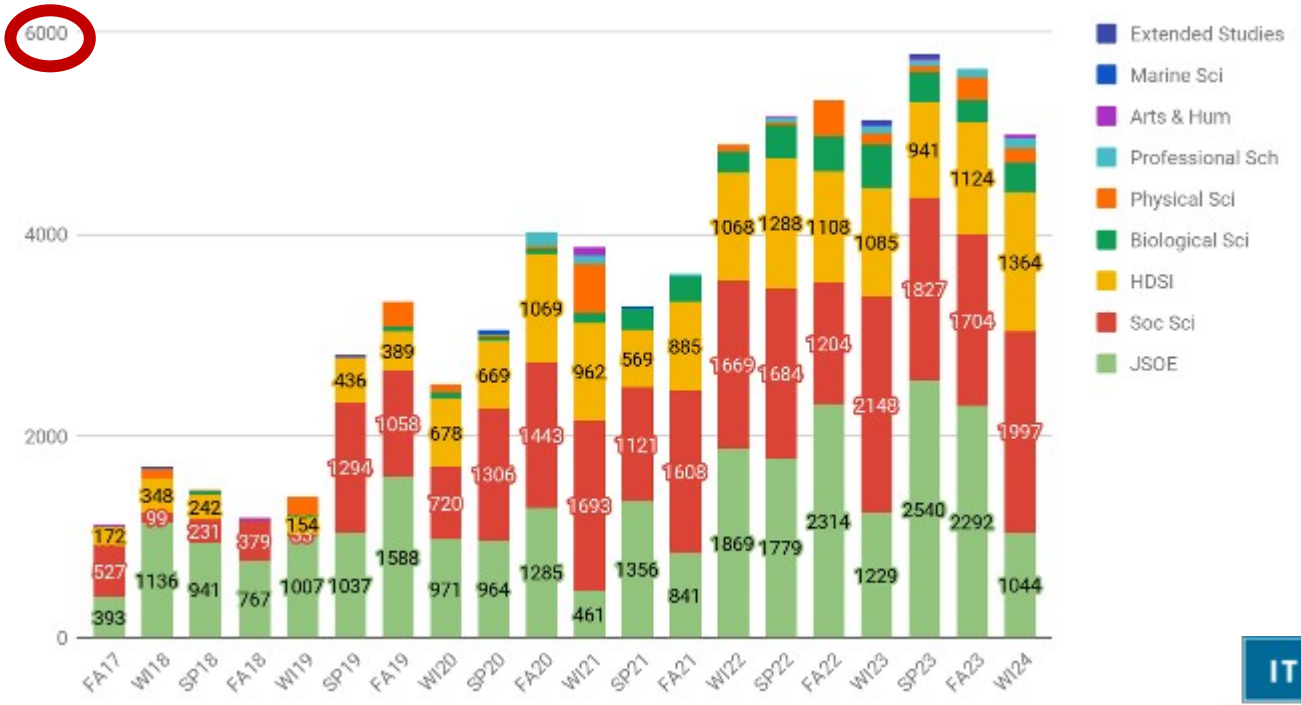
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UC San Diego's DS/ML Platform Has Supported Up To 6,000 Students Per Quarter Over the Last Six Years



Source: Adam Tilghman, UCSD ITS

Data Science/ML Platform - 2/2024 Update

IT SERVICES

UC San Diego

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Education and Workforce Development Using CENIC AIR: San Diego State University

SDSU's VERNE Expands UCSD's Instructional Model by Federating with NRP: Visionary, Education, Research, Network, Ecosystem

SDSU Information Technology Division



CENIC

- **Dell PowerEdge Cluster for Instructional Use:**
  - 15 Nodes with:
    - 32 A100 GPUs (can bemanaged as 232 independent GPU
    - 768 CPU cores
    - 240 TB Persistent Storage
  - A Learning Resource that Surges for Research and Instruction
  - System Administration as a Service from the NRP
- **Growth in Both SDSU Courses and Students Using VERNE**
  - Spring Quarter 2024
    - 14 Courses
    - 300 Students

Slide courtesy of Jerry Sheehan and Mike Farley

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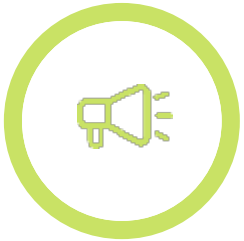
SDSU AI survey



SDSU launched an AI student survey in fall 2023

Understand students' perception and use of AI

Inform institutional response and policymaking on AI



7,800+ student responses (21% response rate)

Largest known survey on AI in higher education

More responses than nationwide in Sweden (~5,900) and Australia (~1,100)



Representative of the SDSU* student body

Survey results largely mirror university-wide statistics

Results represent all fields, not just computer science and engineering

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SDSU AI survey findings

Usage

59%

Report that they use AI in some capacity

45%

Use ChatGPT

41%

Use Grammarly

Career development

"AI will play a significant role in my future career"

College	Agree (%)
Arts & Letters	48%
Business	72%
Education	44%
Engineering	72%
Health & Human Services	43%
Professional Studies & Fine Arts	52%
Sciences	62%
Overall	*57%*

Resources

52%

Expressed interest in receiving formal university training on AI

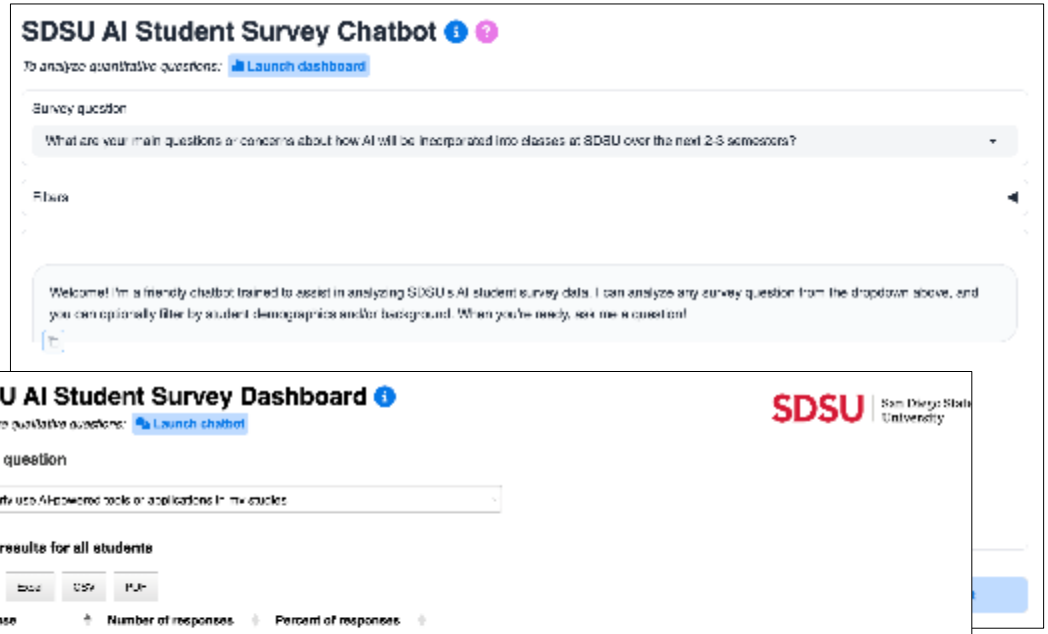
28%

Report that they are currently offered adequate AI training opportunities

SDSU AI survey findings

SDSU AI survey findings are available online through interactive dashboard and chatbot tools

aisurvey.sdsu.edu



SDSU AI survey replications



- **SDSU's AI survey is being replicated across the world**
  - 17 known replication efforts
  - 5 known countries
- **The nexus of this effort is *regional***
  - In San Diego, CSU (SDSU), UC (UCSD), and CCC (SDCCD) are working together to replicate the survey in fall 2024
  - Additional efforts in California at CSU Chico, CSU Fullerton, Fresno State, San Francisco State, and UC San Francisco

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San Diego Community College District
Collaborated with UCSD and SDSU

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Can UCSD, SDSU, SDSC & NRP Work Together With SDCCD & SDCOE to Create a Common San Diego Instructional JupyterHub?



VERNE

SDSU

Launch JupyterHub



DSMLP

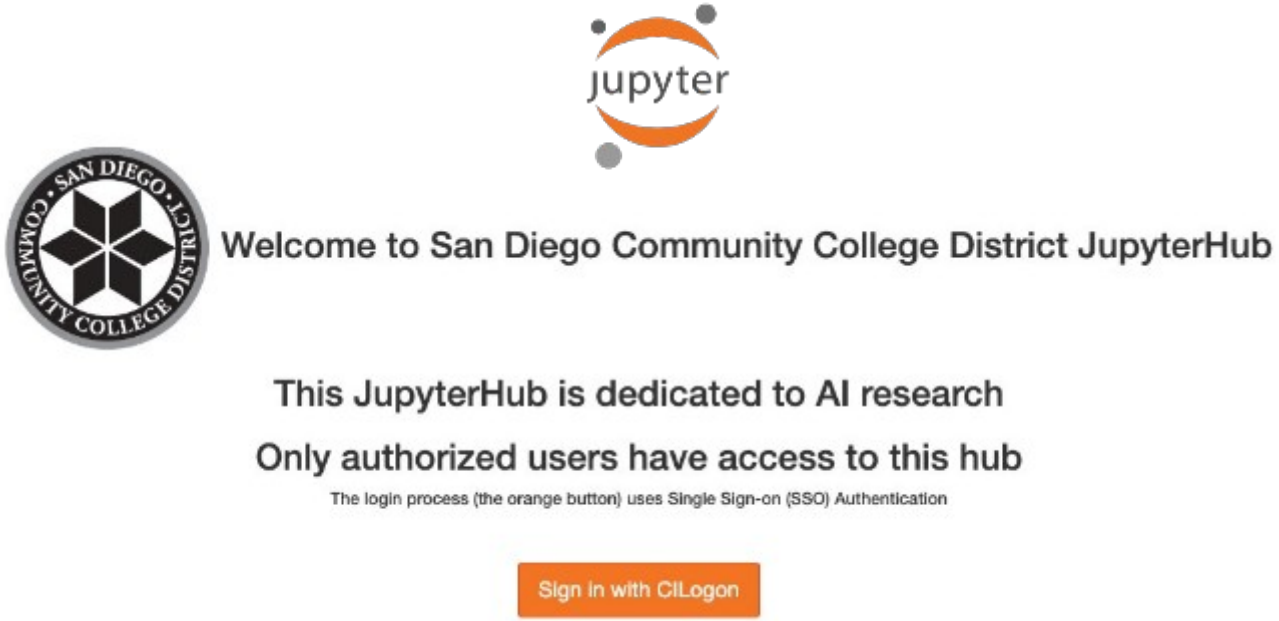
UC San Diego

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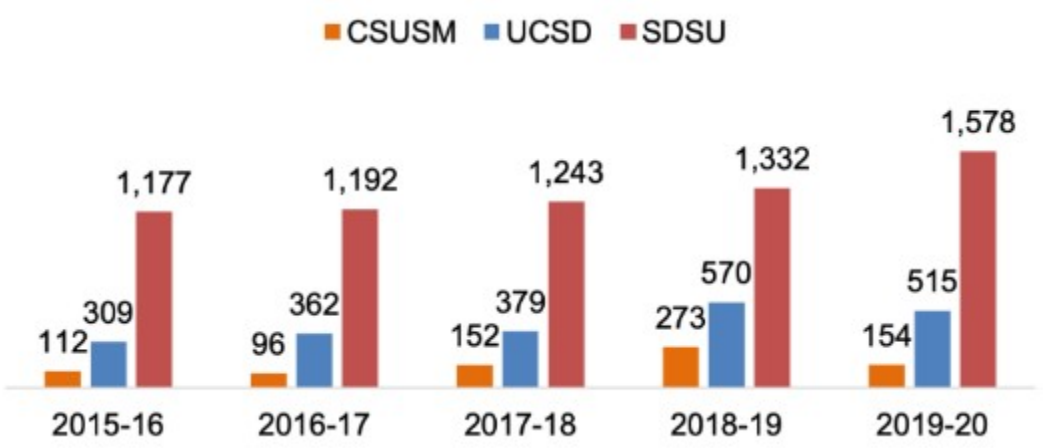
Potential JupyterHub
That Could be Created for the SDCCD



Concept and Image from Dung Vu, CSUSB

Toward a San Diego Region
UC/CSU/CCC Shared Use of CENIC-AIR

San Diego County Community College District (SDCCD)
Had 4,839 Students Transfer in 2019-20,
Almost Half (46%) to a Local Public University:
(SDSU: 33%, UCSD: 11%, CSUSM: 3%).



Local Public Universities Name Key

CSUSM: California State University, San Marcos

UCSD: University of California, San Diego

SDSU: San Diego State University

www.sdccd.edu/docs/Research/Student%20Outcomes/Transfer/Transfer%20Report_2019-20_Final_v2.pdf

Step One:
SDCCD Establishes InCommon Identity Management

San Diego Community College District — San Diego, California

Federation | Certificates | Eduroam

Organization

Service:	IdP
Org Name:	San Diego Community College District
Display Name:	San Diego Community College District
URL:	https://www.sdccd.edu/

Federation

Identity Providers

https://sso.sdccd.edu/idp Info

SDCCD Can Host
CENIC AIR Computational Resources





Peter Maharaj, Rose Parnsoonthorn

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SDCCD:
Next Steps for 2024

- **Create Automated Access for Users**
- **Pursue NSF Funding**
- **Host FIONAs and Upgrade CENIC Network**
- **Strengthen Collaboration With Our Partners: SDSU, UCSD, SDCOE, CCCCO, LACCD, Los Rios, CENIC**
- **Pursue Alignment of AI/ML/DS Curricula with SDSU and UCSD**