

Researcher-Facing Track (2nd Thursdays)

Date: Sept 11th, 2025

Time: Thu 9/11, 1p ET/ 12p CT/ 11a MT/ 10a PT

Zoom Details: <https://utah.zoom.us/my/carcc?pwd=TjFuR3VVM2d5eE5zWnEvWWxDTFBCUT09>

Call Topic

Title: Community Discussion on AI Facilitation

Speakers:

NAIRR AI Fellows Program - JetStream2

- Le Mai Weakley, Senior Tech Lead with Indiana University's Research Cloud Services team.

CaRCC AI Facilitation Interest Group

- Forough Ghahramani, EdD, Assistant Vice President for Research & Innovation, NJ Edge
- Daniel Howard, HPC Consultant, Computational & Information Services Laboratory, NSF NCAR
- Semir Sarajlic, Doctoral Candidate, Vanderbilt University


Abstract

Join us for a community discussion on AI Support. Learn about the structure of the new Jetstream2 NAIRR AI Fellows Program, offering opportunities for researchers to gain AI-based research skills. Hear from the CaRCC AI Facilitation Interest Group, which aims to build a community for effective AI/ML software and resource facilitation. We value your insights and want to hear from you to help build a path forward for supporting AI platforms and tools.

Talking points or questions to consider:

- *Need pre-set questions to help IG Chairs seek comments and ideas to support the group*

Agenda (speaker order can be adjusted)

- 12:50 - 1:05 pm - Welcome Attendees - Introductions, Justin B. (or RF Steering Committee)
- 1:10 - 1:20 pm - NAIRR Fellows - JetStream2 - Le Mai Weakley Presentation
- 1:20 - 1:30 pm - AI Facilitation Interest Group - Daniel Presentation
 -  AI FIG CaRCC Presentation - Research Facing Sept 2025
- 1:30 - 1:50 pm - Q/A Discussion - IG Chair facilitated discussion
- 1:50 - 1:55 pm - close call/Announcements - Steering Committee

Notes - Call facilitators will encourage questions in the Zoom Chat - speakers can respond to questions right after presentation or in Q/A session. Sharing out resource links and speaker materials will also help attendees find additional information on resources.

Prompt Questions

1. Understanding the Research Community's AI Needs

- What types of AI research are most active on your campus?
- **Are researchers in your community facing challenges in accessing AI tools, compute, or expertise?**
- Are there emerging areas of interest or new faculty hires driving demand for AI support?

2. Training and Education

- What types of AI-related training or workshops are most needed on your campus?
- Who typically delivers this training (ex: research computing, IT, library, faculty champions)?
- Are there gaps in training for specific groups

3. Campus Infrastructure & AI Readiness

- Does your institution have infrastructure tailored for AI workflows (ex: GPUs, large-scale storage, data)?
- What AI resources (campus-level or external) do researchers currently use or request?
- Are there concerns around scaling up AI usage (ex: responsible use, reproducibility, data governance)?

4. Collaboration & Facilitation

- How do you currently support interdisciplinary or cross-departmental AI collaborations?
- What would help you be a more effective facilitator for AI research on your campus?
- Would an AI-specific facilitation guide, community of practice, or resource repository be valuable?

5. Role of the Working Group

- What specific support could the CaRCC AI Facilitation Interest Group provide that would be most helpful?

6. Planning Ahead

- What trends or changes are you anticipating in AI research facilitation over the next 1–2 years?
- What unknowns or strategic questions keep coming up as you plan for future AI support needs?