

Community



Unidata Community Services

Unidata is a diverse community of higher education and research institutions who come together with the common goals of sharing geoscience data and collaborating to develop software tools to access, analyze, and visualize the data.

Unidata's primary sponsor is the National Science Foundation. In keeping with the NSF's mission, we seek to serve a broad community by fostering partnerships and collaborative opportunities that enhance research and teaching endeavors.

Working with our community, the Unidata Program Center actively encourages diversity by engaging other scientific groups, including:

- ❖ Atmospheric Science
- ❖ Hydrology
- ❖ Oceanography
- ❖ GIS
- ❖ Cyberinfrastructure
- ❖ International groups

Governing Committees provide Unidata with guidance and peer leadership, bringing perspectives from interdisciplinary research and education.

Outreach

Newsletters, seminars, conferences, and workshops are all important aspects of building a community. Unidata's triennial Users' Workshops are planned around important contemporary themes proposed by our Users Committee. Unidata works collaboratively with UCAR/NCAR programs to create and respond to opportunities that will be mutually beneficial in support of the user community.

Look around for us at conferences, workshops, and technical meetings. Unidata staff regularly attend meetings of the American Geophysical Union, American Meteorological Society, and the European Geosciences Union — all are important venues for Unidata to participate and to stay current with the needs and demands of the growing community.



Community Governance

The Unidata Users Committee is the primary means for gaining feedback on our effectiveness in serving the members with appropriate tools, data streams, software products, and facilitating the exchange of ideas related to user needs. Our Strategic Advisory Committee, based on input from the Users Committee and drawing from members' experience and knowledge, makes recommendations on the program's policies, activities, and objectives.



Unidata staff also draw on the expertise of community staff through specially-convened steering committees whose role is to provide community input regarding specific projects.

Members to all Unidata committees are appointed based on community input and nominations, along with current committee needs.

Community Advocacy

Community advocacy is another important role for Unidata. We actively advocate for free access to geoscience data, working with both public-sector and commercial data providers to secure access for use in research and education. We work with community groups and standards organizations to promote interoperable data formats, and seek to address other needs as community members bring them to our attention.

Unidata staff participate in a wide variety of other organizations active in the geoscience community, including the Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC), the Federation of Earth Science Information Partners (ESIP), and the National Science Foundation's EarthCube data infrastructure initiative. As always, Unidata's activities in coordination with other groups are guided by input from community members.

Want to Participate?

There are many ways to participate in the Unidata community, from using Unidata software and data streams to serving on a governing committee. To learn more, visit:

<http://www.unidata.ucar.edu/community>

or write to use at info@unidata.ucar.edu.