

Dear NSF,

I worked for NSF for over 40 years. The last 30 years I was Head of Geospace and spent two years as interim Director of Atmospheric and Geospace Science. I know NCAR and its importance and capabilities well.

Simply put, NCAR is critical to the advancement of both atmospheric and geospace science. The center employs many of the world's best scientists in their fields who, working together in impressive groups, are responsible for key weather and space weather research advances. NCAR also provides leading edge facilities such as the (Gulfstream aircraft, the Daniel K Inouye Solar telescope and a highly regarded supercomputer) not only to NCAR scientists, but to the entire atmospheric and space scientists community. These facilities underpin and make possible future breakthroughs in understanding and predicting hazardous and dangerous weather and space weather impacts.

The role NCAR plays in training and mentoring the next generation of scientists cannot be overstated. I truly know hundreds of atmospheric and space scientists and almost every single one of them has spent time learning, teaching and doing research at NCAR.

Finally it is important to keep NCAR's various scientific components together and in close proximity. Many scientific discoveries and advancements have come about at the intersection of scientific fields and through the informal interactions of scientists from seemingly disparate fields of study.

NCAR has always been a well run organization, consistently getting high marks in NSF reviews. The scientific advances it has achieved, the quality of the empowering facilities it maintains and makes available, and its importance in scientific education at all levels makes NCAR a center that is the envy of scientists from around the globe. It is a true gem.

What problem is NSF trying to fix?

Richard Behnke