

From: Michela Biasutti <biasutti@ldeo.columbia.edu>

Subject: protect NCAR's integrity

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To: NSF_NCAR@nsf.gov

To whom it may concern,

I would like to submit the following comment responding to the NSF announcement stating its intent to restructure critical weather science infrastructure at NCAR.

I have a PhD in Atmospheric Sciences and 25 additional years of experience in academic research and instruction. Throughout my career I have benefited from the tools and the training that have come out of NCAR; these have resulted in enhanced productivity, training of the new generation of scientists, and building important knowledge for how to protect the US from worsening weather hazards.

I strongly believe that NCAR is a jewel in the US scientific landscape and that it ought to be preserved at all cost. Its Earth System Model is admired worldwide and is a founding block of our ability to understand the way the Earth works and the vulnerability and risks to our society.

Disrupting NCAR's scientific operation and fracturing the close ties between scientists, model developers, and computer scientists would be a terrible mistake: it would end up costing more, hobbling a vital part of our research enterprise, and compromise the training that our students receive.

Down the road, this will mean a Financial Risk and Insurance industries that are less knowledgeable and capable to address the needs of the US citizenry, to name just one example with which I am most familiar.

I urge NSF to work so that NCAR is preserved and strengthened.

Michela Biasutti, PhD