

# GENI Futures Planning Workshop

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# ACI-REF Perspective

## What problem is ACI-REF trying to solve?

- We are building a community of professionals to support campus-based research at institutions across the nation.
- University based research computing operations thin on people **ESPECIALLY** user-facing people.
  - Training and education gap between resources and researchers – high barrier to entry without human assistance.
    - ...and the barriers become higher as we bring in new communities.
- Typical research problems today are not solely technology or infrastructure issues – it's navigating the complexity, which takes people.
- Nationwide gap on campuses of these professionals, while demand for CI grows.

# ACI-REF Perspective

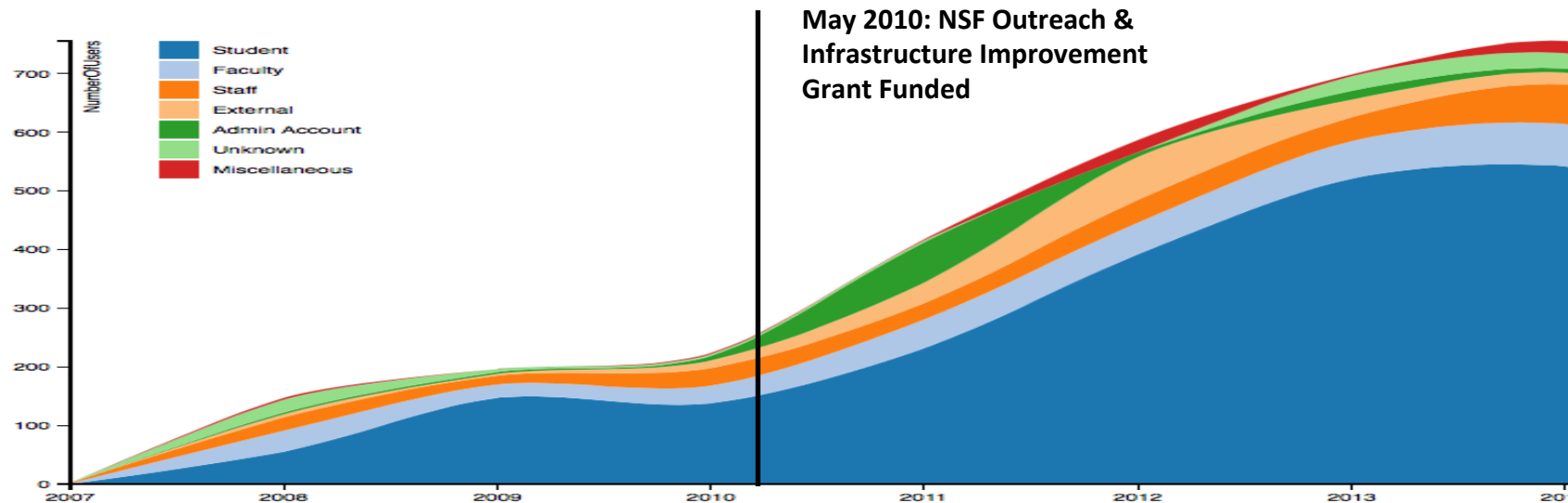
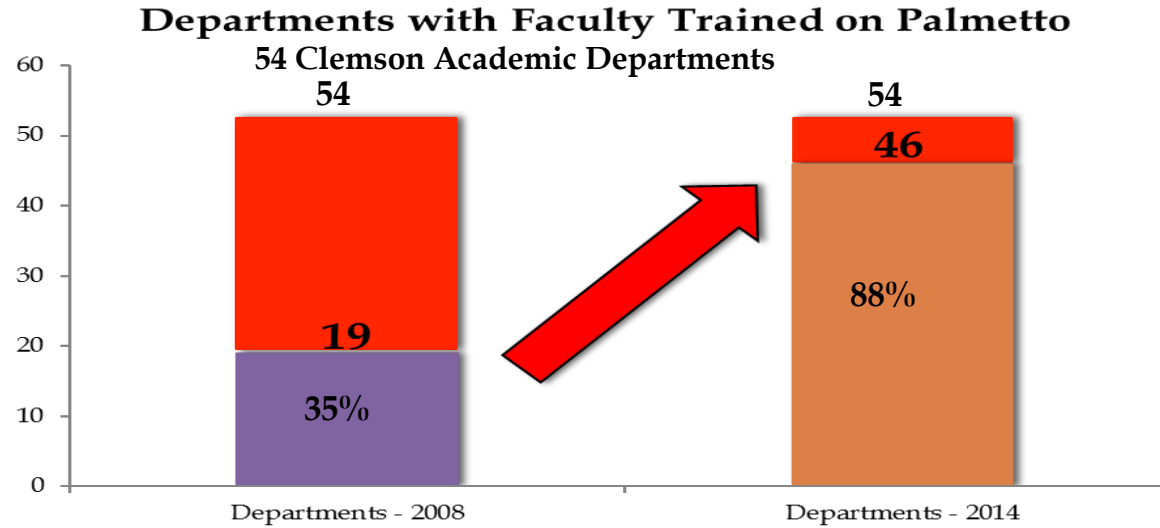
## What have we done to accomplish our goals?

- **\$5.3M** NSF Award supports the project leadership team and 2 Facilitators for each of the 6 partner sites for 2 years.
  - Clemson, Harvard, Wisconsin, USC, Utah, and Hawaii
- Participating campuses saw:
  - Estimated **17%\*** Growth in Departments Served
  - Estimated **16%\*** Growth Number of Advanced Computing Users
  - **821** Individual Consultations with ACI-REFs **since March 2015**
  - **1288** Training Attendees in Sessions by ACI-REFs **since March 2015**
  - **75** Training Sessions Given by ACI-REFs **since March 2015**
  - **317M+** Core Hours Delivered by ACI-REF Campuses **since March 2015**
  - At least **65** Non-Traditional Departments Using ACI Across Campuses
- Other Notables:
  - **Multi-site Support Network** – for example, ACI-REF at USC able to tap into Clemson GIS ACI-REF to help a faculty member with their research
  - **Best Practices Manual** – ACI-REFs have developed a “best practices for facilitation” manual to aid in the onboarding of new facilitators and to formalize the practice
  - **Office Hours** – most ACI-REF campuses are now holding set advertised hours each week where researchers can stop by and get help with any problems or ask questions

\* Estimates based upon mid-year metrics collection.

# And the workload is going to grow..

Clemson  
May 2010 – first  
Clemson “facilitator”  
funded



# Expanding The Community

## NSF Research Coordination Networks Proposal – The Campus Research Computing Infrastructures Consortium (CaRC)

- **Vision:** Shape the future of campus research and scholarly achievements through research technologies by connecting practitioners and enabling a collaborative environment that fosters knowledge sharing among campuses.
- **Mission:** Build and sustain a national coalition of research computing support practitioners dedicated to sharing best practices, expertise, and resources, enabling the advancement of campus-based research computing activities around the nation.

### Initial Membership

Clemson University	University of Missouri	University of Nebraska-Lincoln
Harvard University	University of Miami	Stanford University
University of Wisconsin-Madison	Yale University	Arizona State University
University of Utah	Florida Atlantic University	Montana State University
University of Southern California	University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign	University of Minnesota
University of Hawaii	University of Florida	University of Virginia
University of Oklahoma	University of Georgia	University of Colorado-Boulder
University of California-Berkeley	University of North Carolina Chapel Hill	University of Notre Dame
Oklahoma State University	Brandeis University	
Ohio Supercomputer Center	Kansas State University	