

Supercomputing Challenge Board of Directors meeting

May 13, 2024

Attendees: Tim Thomas, Ron Davis, Char Arias, Creighton Edington, Lupe Montoya, Thomas Robey, Darko Stefanovic, Kailey Woelfel, Tom Bowles, David Kratzer, Amy Tapia, Kathy Keith, Lina Germann, Patty Meyer, Celia Einhorn

Notes

- We have a quorum of 9 of the 10 board members.
- The motion to accept the minutes of the Feb 8 meeting was made by Tim and seconded by Char, all approved.
- Report on the Expo
 - 34 teams submitted final reports. 71% completion rate. 90 volunteers from LANL, Sandia, Businesses, and Universities involved
 - 6 first-round finalist teams, 3 teams were second-round finalists
 - Richard Barrett, Sandia Labs, Head Expo Judge
 - Mike Trahan, Sandia Labs, Head Finalist Judge
 - Char, Tim, Tom B., Ron, Rep from Lupe's office, and board members attended and participated
 - Expo expenses. Food \$5,200.00, Housing \$8,500, awards \$15,500, other expenses \$3,000. Scholarship worth \$18,500 awarded (in-kind and donated funds)
 - Balance of 83K in accounts, Yearly Expected expenses of 120K
- Lina's Report
 - Silent Auction is gaining momentum, and the Challenge is continuing.
 - The budget was created at the fundraising meeting.
 - Learning to ask for \$\$, Involve supporters
 - Looking at how Challenge looks in the future.
 - Asked the board to find some sponsors for the silent auction
- Kathy Keith
 - LANL's focus is Northern New Mexico, but supports the statewide nature of the Supercomputing Challenge
 - Education is a core value for LANL and Sandia
 - What can LANL offer to the Challenge? Presently, we give 55K yearly. GOV approved. She suggests withholding the 55K to hire a Program Director. It will be a Lab Employee and a member of Consult can be part of the hiring process. She will be the final hiring authority for the position. The board would be able to recommend the candidate. Do we want a permanent employee who is full-time or a contract person? Reactions at the Lab are positive. Kathy should know by the end of the month how to move forward with this action. This employee can't do fundraising or hiring. We should get the go-ahead on Oct 1st. There is room in her budget for someone to come on earlier.
 - The Challenge needs to hire contractors to help run the program. (Patty, Karen, and David)

- A decision needs to be made on 5/31st.

- Amy Tapia
 - Agrees bringing in a permanent employee from LANL would be beneficial
 - Currently, there's no opportunity for Sandia to support staff time donations to the Challenge

- Tim mentioned it would be great to figure out a hybrid approach for virtual/in-person events
- We survived during COVID by going virtual for 3 Expos and 2 Kickoffs
- If we need to cut down to survive, we shouldn't question it

- Lina - There is always a way to get space sponsored. We should expect that cost to go away
- Char - We need to figure out how to put the money towards the kids... we can't cut out awards
- We should figure out how to cut costs on locations and food. Can we look into an event coordinator who is looking to get things sponsored or get group rates or donations?
- Darko - seems the expo can work well over zoom, but the kickoff is really beneficial to have in person
- Tom - We should figure out what our essential budget it... what can we cut out vs what is essential?
- Lina - We need to get donations as un-restricted in order to function better
- Creighton - Doesn't want to go back to the expo being virtual. If we keep returning to the same place for kickoff or for expo, the students get a sense of belonging
- Should we start to look at cost per student? Currently about \$700/student.
- Lina - we need to restructure our funding
- Char - the critical vote is if we want LANL to put us in their budget. Once that new person comes on board, we can start talking about these other particulars
- Tom - we do need to decide if we want to give up our \$55k for this opportunity and what we hope to get from this. We will only get a fraction of an employee with \$55k ...
- Tom - we may be able to reach out to Intel to see if they would host the Expo and give tours
- Tom - We need to reevaluate legislature support and see about getting funds
- David - I'd like to see about making a motion on the continuation of the SC
- Creighton - getting our foot back in the door with our executive director at LANL will be helpful for getting support
- Tim - I'd like to second David's motion
- Tom - I move that we continue the Challenge for another year, with the hopes to re-expand it after a year

- Lina - what changed between the vote before to end the program and now this vote to continue? What do we tell the public?
- Tom - we have \$85k in the bank and need to raise \$40k
- Lina - biggest elephant in the room is who is going to be the executive director in the long run. A non-profit to have one employee is the most difficult thing ever. They're going to want a full-time job with benefits. This may be something that LANL can provide
- Tom retracts his motion
- Kaley - we're not ready to make this decision. We need more time to put all the ducks in a row and have a board meeting between now and our next scheduled board meeting
- Tom - if we go with an executive director at LANL, we'll need to be working with NNSA if we want to grow
- Tim - motion to have an hour and a half board meeting on 5/28 and arrange to have the data needed to make our final decision
- Tom - second motion
- Motion unanimously passed
- Ceila is retiring on May 31st. We would like to thank her for the time and effort she has dedicated to the SC over the last 27 years. Celia is a wonderfully great person. Her teacher connections have really driven the Challenge. We're going to miss having her here but we wish her the best in retirement!
- Tom - Motion that Paige Prescott and Nels Hoening be removed from Nusenda checking and savings accounts. Additionally, we'd like to add Karen Glennon to the accounts. This includes debit cards
- Tim - seconded
- Motion unanimously passed
- Tim would like everyone to think about bringing people in as new board members
- Tim moves we adjourn
- Tom - seconds

Action items

- Gather more info from Kathy Keith about the LANL position (especially how much training and OH is required). Kathy responded that the person could work half-time.