



## **Building a Community to Enhance the Use of Data in Earth System Science Education and Research**

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Collaboration has been an important component of research and education for years. The growth of the Internet, the advent of Internet2, and the development of Grid technology introduces a complexity to the scientific challenges now facing the diverse community of Earth System educators and researchers. Working together in a “community” environment goes far in serving the community needs for data and tools to serve today’s Earth science research and rapidly evolving education trends.

The Unidata Program Center, a University Corporation for Atmospheric Research program, with funding primarily from the National Science Foundation has been a pioneer in community building activities for over 20 years. Born from a need to access real-time meteorological data in a cost-effective manner for the academic community, Unidata has grown to over 150 universities, government, and other institutions needing data, data management, and analysis and visualization tools. Unidata coordinates; the community participates. The Unidata community structure works, and leads to important collaborations that are now extending to a global community.

This presentation will highlight some recent Unidata collaborations and community building efforts.