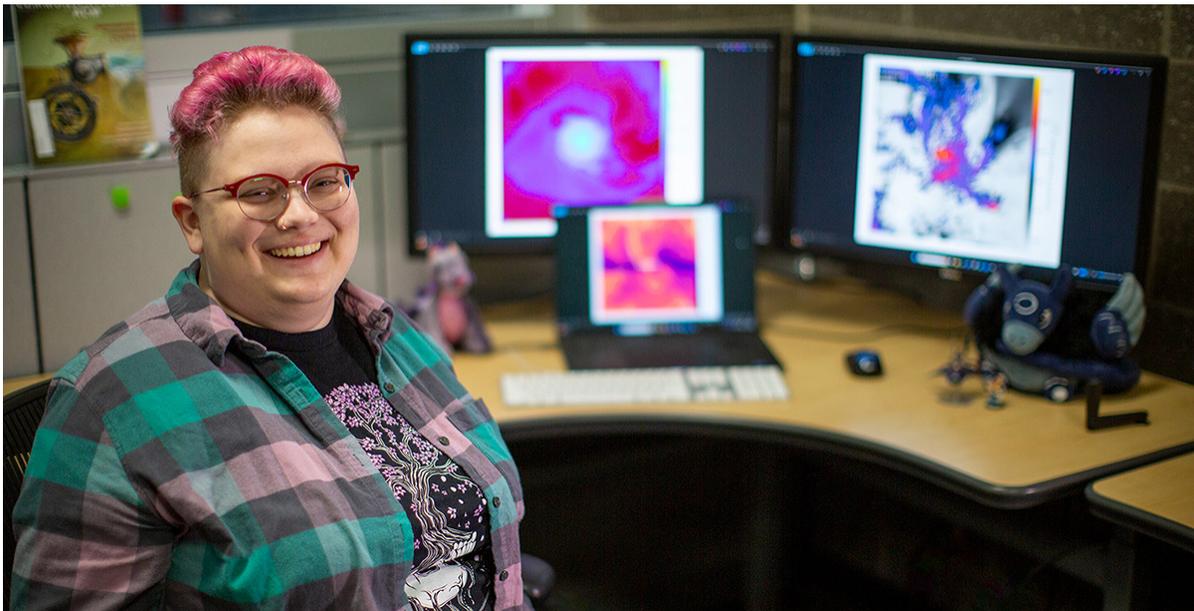


MARCH 2026

ICER NEWSLETTER

Headlines



Claire Kopenhafer on Modeling Galaxies and Empowering Researchers

From galaxies to tabletop games, Claire Kopenhafer, Ph.D., brings curiosity and creativity to everything she does. As an ICER Research Consultant, she helps researchers make the most of high-performance computing while continuing her own work modeling galaxies and the gas that surrounds them. Whether improving code, teaching Python, or building imaginative worlds outside the lab, Claire is driven to make complex systems easier to explore. [Read the full article >>](#)

ICER Establishes New Annual Maintenance Schedule

ICER is standardizing our routine maintenance schedule, which will occur three times each year. Grades are due on the Tuesday after finals, so ICER will take downtime starting at 5 AM on the Thursday that falls two days after grades are due for spring and summer. Winter maintenance will begin at 5 AM on the Thursday after the holiday break. Exact dates will vary year to year based on the Thursday after finals.

No jobs will run during routine maintenance. Jobs that will not be completed before the scheduled date will not begin until after maintenance is complete. For example, if you submit a four-day job three days before the maintenance outage, your job will be postponed and will not begin until after maintenance is completed.

ICER might still have emergency maintenance days even though we do our best to prevent them. Follow our [HPCC Service State page](#) and newsletters for maintenance updates.

For your reference, the next three upcoming maintenance dates are:

May 7, 2026

August 20, 2026

January 7, 2027

AI Research Showcase: Call for Participation and Registration

Date: April 1, 2026, 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Venue: Digital Scholarship Lab, MSU Main Library

This event will be an opportunity to hear how MSU researchers are incorporating AI into their research.

Call for Participation: Indicate your interest in participating by March 16. You will share your research, how you incorporate AI tools, and what challenges you have faced in doing so. AI in this setting is broadly defined as generative AI, LLMs, AI agents, machine learning, etc.

Registration: Register to attend this event.

[Event Webpage](#)

Upcoming Events

Registration is open for the following training webinars hosted by MSU's Institute for Cyber-Enabled Research (ICER) using the high-performance computing center (HPCC).

Questions? Contact ICER Training Coordinator Mahmoud Parvizi at parvizim@msu.edu.



Training Webinar: R on the HPCC

March 16, 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM

- Understand R modules on the HPCC
- Understand R user environments on the HPCC
- Use the OnDemand web portal to launch an R-Studio session on the HPCC
- Use R packages to parallelize processes

[Event Webpage](#)



Training Webinar: Python on the HPCC

March 30, 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM

- Understand Python modules on the HPCC
- Understand Python user environments on the HPCC
- Use the OnDemand web portal to launch a Jupyter Notebook on the HPCC
- Perform basic profiling of Python code
- Understand basic vectorization in NumPy
- Use Numba to parallelize a loop

[Event Webpage](#)



Training Webinar: Introduction to Parallel Computing on the HPCC

April 13, 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM

- Understand the terms and concepts of parallel computing: thread, shared memory, distributed memory, speedup, efficiency, scalability
- Estimate the resources needed for a given parallel computation
- Use the SLURM scheduler to request the appropriate resources for parallel computations
- Use HPCC tools to measure the performance and efficiency of parallel computations

[Event Webpage](#)

Lab Notebooks

Lab notebook documentation describes how to solve a specific problem at a specific time. It is not regularly maintained in the way ICER maintains general documentation. These pages can be casual, trial-and-error tutorials that are relevant for a period of time before becoming outdated.

Recent Lab Notebooks

- [Using OpenMPI versions >= 5.0.0 with srun](#)

State of the System

View the latest HPCC service status updates.

- [Scheduler Reboot at 8:00PM on 3/9/26](#)
- [Miniforge3 version deprecation](#)
- [Project verification process complete](#)



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