

David Blezard has had a 27-year career in higher education IT. His career began overseeing the public computer labs at the University of New Hampshire. His involvement with NERCOMP began with role, attending events and eventually contributing his first presentation at the 2001 conference. He has presented at the annual conference a dozen and at many more workshops and has been part of the professional development organizing since 2013. In 2021, David was asked to fill in a vacant seat on the NERCOMP board and had worked on both vendor partnerships and community relations groups during that time. He has contributed to the broader IT community by presenting at many conferences including SIGUCCS, EDUCAUSE, All Day DevOps, and DevOps Enterprise Summit. David also has experience as a faculty member, having taught network and system administration courses as an adjunct instructor for the UNH Computer Science department for 17 years.

David is currently the Senior Director of Enterprise IT Systems for the University System of New Hampshire, overseeing business applications teams and infrastructure services supporting the four USNH schools across New Hampshire. His teams install, develop, and manage a wide range of applications ranging from HR, Finance, and Student ERP tools to department-specific software. He also continues to maintain connections back to his academic technology roots with involvement in the planning and operation of the learning management system, web conferencing, and media technologies used for teaching and learning across USNH.

David has experience in a range of volunteer roles and community involvement. He has served as a member of the Internet2 NET+ advisory board for Zoom for two years and has been a board member with the Seacoast Chapter of NH Audubon since 2003 serving in various roles including president and treasurer. He also acts as a volunteer naturalist of for the Seacoast Science Center of Rye, NH in their annual BioBlitz! event.

David has gotten a great deal out of his involvement with NERCOMP. Foremost are the professional connections to others in higher education IT. Those colleagues are valued resources both personally and to the work to support the USNH schools by sharing ideas, solutions, and lessons learned (sometimes the hard way). NERCOMP events have given him a chance to grow and develop in his career learning both the technical skills and the soft skills needed for effective IT services. He welcomes the opportunity to give back to the organization and believes that the core of NERCOMP needs to be service to the staff of the member organizations. Providing learning opportunities to that upcoming staff, with a focus on technical systems, solutions, and skills, is what while continue to let NERCOMP succeed. It provides the environment to foster those long-term professional connections. His key areas of focus as a board member will be on professional development opportunities within NERCOMP, working to increase the range of technical topics offered, to help our staff keep pace with the constant change and development of technology, and supporting new vendor partnerships.