

David Blezard

David Blezard has had a 30-year career in higher education IT. He is currently the Senior Director of Enterprise IT Systems for the University System of New Hampshire, leading implementation and operation of business systems, academic technology solutions, and enterprise infrastructure services across all the NH state institutions. He has led both technology and organizational transformations while working with a staff of 70 and an annual budget of \$12 million to deliver the core infrastructure and business technology needs for the institutions across the state. Their distributed team focuses on providing quality service in partnership with the business units, instructional faculty, researchers, and students of the USNH schools.

His career began overseeing the public computer labs at the University of New Hampshire. His involvement with NERCOMP began with that role, attending professional development events and eventually contributing his first presentation at the 2001 conference. He has presented at the annual conference a dozen times and at many more workshops, along with serving as 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 partnerships and community relations groups while on the board, along with continuing with the professional development committee. In 2024, David was selected as Treasurer-Elect, a position that shadows and assists the current Treasurer role in oversight and management of NERCOMP's finances to be ready to step up to that role in the following year, if elected.

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 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 supporting the financial stability of NERCOMP and to assure that all of our member schools are receiving the maximum value from the organization, professional development opportunities within NERCOMP to help our staff keep pace with the constant change and development of technology, and supporting new vendor partnerships.