Subject: Sponsor a NHERI Hackathon Project

NHERI Community,

We are pleased to announce a NHERI hackathon to be held July 27-29, 2022, at the Texas Advanced Computing Center (TACC) in Austin, Texas, and online for remote participants. The hackathon will bring together members of the natural hazards community, with different backgrounds and skill sets, to work collaboratively to develop new software and/or data sets that will advance our shared goal of reducing natural hazard risk. Examples from last year's DesignSafe Hackathon are available [here.](#) Hackathon participants will learn, build, and develop tools while exploring new areas in natural hazard engineering. The hackathon presents an excellent opportunity for NHERI researchers to showcase their research methods/tools/facilities and to get more students excited about NHERI research activities.

The NEHRI Hackathon Organizing Committee and TACC support staff will offer computing-related help and advice to hackathon attendees throughout the event. We are seeking your help in finding exciting technical challenges (projects) and, most importantly, potential mentors, who are preferrably postdoctoral scholars or experienced Ph.D. students, for these hackathon projects. Hackathon projects will include teams participating either online or in-person. If a hackathon project is in-person, then the entire team including the mentor will participate in-person at TACC, and travel support will be provided. Remote teams will have mentors connect online. Mentors can participate in-person at TACC or participate remotely from their home institution.

Mentors are expected to:
● Work with their advisors to identify a technical challenge associated with their research that could be used as the basis for a hackathon project.
● Work with the NHERI hackathon committee to i) craft a viable hackathon project, ii) write a project statement that will be presented to potential participants (see attached example project statements), and iii) identify skills and pre-requisites hackathon team members will be expected to have before the event to enable them to contribute to the specific hackathon project.
● Attend a mentor training session on July 26, 2022, either in-person at TACC or remotely.
● Supervise a team of 4 to 5 students on July 27 through 29 via 2 to 3 daily meetings.

All mentors will receive a certificate of recognition; additionally, through their participation in this event, we expect that mentors will
● Improve their mentoring skills, especially with respect to mentoring students who are working to develop software products.
● Have access to the product(s) developed by their mentees, which could be expected to advance the mentees research objectives or expand the scope of their research activities.
● Increase their knowledge of how to incorporate NHERI software tools and TACC computing infrastructure into their own research programs.
● Potentially, find a group of future research collaborators and colleagues.

Research groups interested in sponsoring a hackathon project should complete the Google form at the URL below by **Monday, April 11**; please note that all hackathon projects must have a mentor identified:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd3f7DXa7wdKOw2mK6LZLoQaLZZhGzb2bSTwwzQIlGnJ1lagA/viewform?usp=sf_link

Questions should be directed to *nehri-hackathon@utlists.utexas.edu*.

Sincerely,

The NEHRI Hackathon Organizing Committee:
Scott Brandenberg
Krishna Kumar
Laura Lowes
Peter Mackenzie-Helnwein
Frank McKenna
Matt Schoettler
Adam Zsarnoczay