



University of
Pittsburgh®

Center for Research
Computing and Data

FY2026 ANNUAL REPORT

Advancing discovery through research computing & data

The Center for Research Computing and Data (CRCD) powers discovery across the University of Pittsburgh, delivering high-performance computing, storage, and data services to researchers in every domain. FY2026 was a year of record throughput, strategic infrastructure investment, and new services that expand what Pitt researchers can achieve.

By the Numbers

6.59M

Successful Jobs

3.43M

Compute Hours Delivered

\$95.6M

Research Expenditures Supported

184

Research Grants Supported

~54%

Lower Storage Cost

\$4M

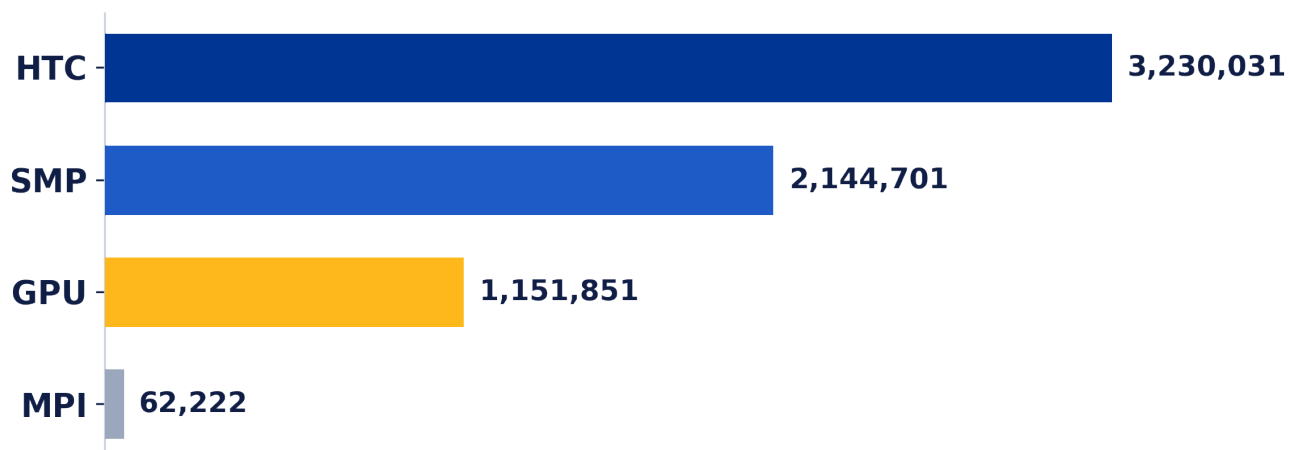
Infrastructure Investment

Volume & Scale

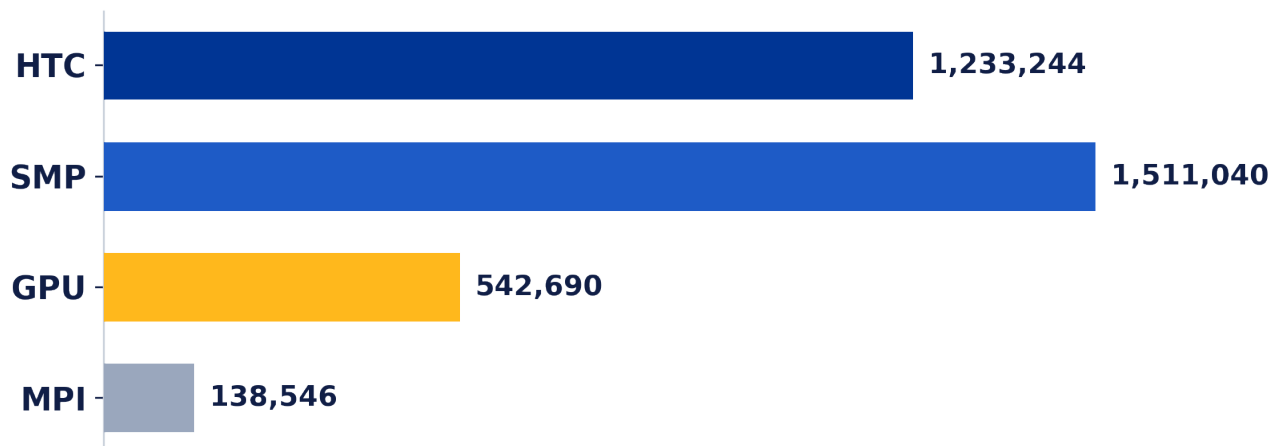
Across all clusters, CRCD completed 6,588,805 jobs and delivered 3,425,520 compute hours in FY2026 — the highest throughput in the Center's history. The breakdown below shows how that work was distributed across our specialized computing environments.

Cluster	Jobs Completed	Compute Hours
HTC	3,230,031	1,233,244
SMP	2,144,701	1,511,040
GPU	1,151,851	542,690
MPI	62,222	138,546
Total	6,588,805	3,425,520

Jobs Completed by Cluster



Compute Hours Delivered by Cluster



Funding Impact

CRCD resources directly supported **184 research grants** totaling **\$95.6M in research expenditures**, underscoring the Center's role as core infrastructure for the University's research enterprise.

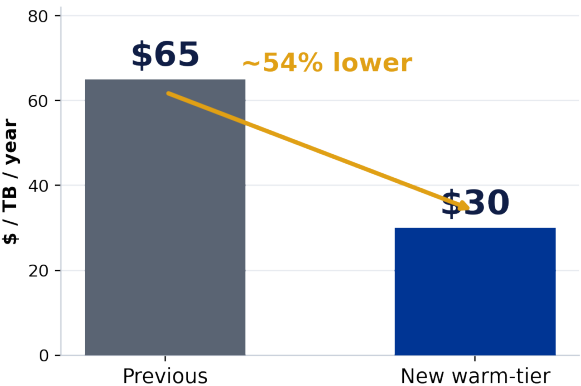
Comprehensive Performance Review

CRCD leadership completed the most comprehensive performance review in the Center's history. Driven by co-director Adam Hobaugh and supported by analysis from the CRCD team, the review examined usage across all resources, including wait times and bottlenecks.

- The review identified improvements that will accelerate science and enhance the user experience, and its findings now inform CRCD strategy and direction.
- The team leveraged AI — Claude, specifically — to build the analysis and outputs. Working from curated scheduling-system data, CRCD can continue to generate new analyses, surface improvement opportunities, implement changes, and iterate as needed.

Data Storage Management Initiatives

CRCD addressed the scientific community's two biggest storage needs — very fast storage and lower-cost storage. Fast storage accelerates science while resolving performance issues that affect the entire community. On the cost side, CRCD lowered the per-TB price for researchers by ~54%, from \$65 to \$30 per TB per year. These initiatives are positioned to deliver long-term, lasting impact.



Lower cost, broader access

A new warm-tier hard-disk system replaces aging infrastructure and nearly halves the cost of research storage — freeing grant dollars for science while expanding the community that can afford to store data at scale.

New Services in Flight

Several high-value services are in development for release within the next year:

Language Model as a Service

Private, secure, open-source generative AI models that bring cutting-edge capabilities to researchers at a fraction of the cost of third-party providers — democratizing access through affordable, self-hosted models.

Cloud Bursting

Positions CRCD as a hybrid HPC center, giving researchers an unprecedented range of compute and storage options that scale to meet demand.

Enhanced Service Supported by Major Infrastructure Upgrades

CRCD delivered major infrastructure upgrades — a new high-performance all-flash storage system and new GPUs — representing roughly \$4M in investment. Owing to recent supply-driven cost increases, these resources would be worth more than double that figure if purchased today.

- **All-flash storage (VAST):** new high-performance system delivering 30x and 100x improvements over previous performance.
- **Warm-tier storage:** new hard-disk system replacing aging infrastructure and cutting per-TB cost from \$65 to \$30 per TB per year.
- **Next-generation GPUs:** 13 RTX 6000 Pro Blackwell nodes (104 GPUs) and 2 H200 nodes (16 GPUs).
- **Teaching cluster:** improved JupyterHub UI with flexible class virtual environments, added Marimo and VS Code support, and expanded coverage across twelve departments.

CRCD Represents Pitt Research Nationally

- Represented Pitt at **SC25** (St. Louis, November 2025) and **NVIDIA GTC26** (San Jose, March 2026). GTC26 training directly positioned the CRCD team to support eight DOE Genesis Mission AI grant proposals as senior personnel or consultant.
- Represented Pitt in the Infrastructure Workstream of the **Keystone AI + Quantum Factory** initiative.



The CRCD team at NVIDIA GTC26 — San Jose McEnery Convention Center, March 2026.

