Welcome to Ci Days at Clemson University! We are delighted to be hosting you for this premiere national conference on cyberinfrastructure. Please make yourself at home, enjoy the beauty of Lake Hartwell and this historic campus and help yourself to this rare opportunity to discover how CI can enhance and enable your teaching, research and outreach activities.

In my 25 years of building cyberinfrastructure programs across our nation, I have discovered that people look at CI through the lens of their own applications and needs. To some, it is information technology. To others, a technology grid. And to others, it is computing - data handling and storage. No matter our definition, we all use CI not only in our work but in our everyday lives.

We are here to engage and learn from one another to understand the benefits of CI and how it can help us collaborate, innovate and create. The CI Days program committee has put together a strong agenda of national and local speakers covering a broad range of academic areas. We will conclude with a set of breakout groups that will focus on next steps for capitalizing on opportunities and focusing on gaps that must be filled for Clemson and our state to develop and deploy a strong cyberinfrastructure that will shape our future.

I continue to be impressed with the steadfast commitment of Clemson's leadership to its goal of becoming one of the nation's Top 20 public universities. Their support of cyberinfrastructure as a differentiator and enabler is making a real difference - both here and throughout our state.

Thank you for being here. I believe that this conference is a critically important first step in building the alliances and partnerships that will empower our educational processes and fuel our knowledge-based economy for years to come. This event very well may prove to be historical. It most definitely will be an exciting and productive adventure. So, let's get started....

Warm Regards,
Jim Bottum
Vice Provost and CIO
Clemson University