Creating a resilient cluster competition team

Since 2016, we have spent a lot of time at our home institution to try to create a HPC club and student cluster competition team that would survive the feast and famine participation cycles that occur with graduating students.

Prior to 2016 HPC activity amongst undergraduates was 0.

In 2016 we sent two team members in a collaborative group which only ended up fielding 5 competitors. This year we had 12 interested students. Six of these students are Juniors or below. It is a welcome change to many prior competitions where we were short one or two people.

Future plans include lobbying for a course credit component for training the team/increasing HPC participation in a wider audience at the school.

We are also trying to trick some our STEM brethren in domain sciences to come on over also. It helps a lot that we own our competition equipment for year round training.