Dear GEM and CEDAR communities,

**The CEDAR and GEM Steering Committees are excited to share that we will have a joint GEM-CEDAR Workshop the week of June 22-27, 2025 in Des Moines, Iowa.**

**Background**

During the 2024 CEDAR and GEM workshops, we announced that our two communities have agreed to hold a joint workshop in 2025. Since that announcement, a working group formed by members of both the GEM and CEDAR Steering Committees met every-other week with the Meeting Organizers (CPAESS for CEDAR, UNH for GEM) to plan how a joint meeting could be implemented. This will be a large meeting (~800 attendees) with a narrow time window for scheduling. The main priority was to find and secure a meeting location that would meet our requirements for venue size, schedule, cost, ease of travel, comfortable weather, inclusivity, and accessibility.

After searching for weeks across the U.S., and after many thoughtful discussions, the location of Des Moines Iowa emerged as the winner. Aside from its availability and affordability (two key requirements), the city itself is centrally located–easing the burden on our East Coast attendees who have had to travel to California the past two years for CEDAR (this was common feedback both communities expressed). Additionally, the weather is predicted to be much more comfortable than other options we reviewed, and the airport is not far from the conference center. Importantly, the Greater Des Moines Area has an active Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion effort that indicates its inclusivity.

 **Meeting Overview**

The 2025 joint CEDAR-GEM workshop will run from Sunday June 22 until Friday June 27 of 2025. The meeting venue will be the Des Moines Iowa Community Choice Convention Center. Blocks of rooms for attendee accommodation have been reserved in several nearby hotels. Parallel web sites for registration and abstract submission will be hosted by both the GEM and CEDAR organizers.  Attendees will register and submit abstracts through the established mechanisms already in place for each community.

The anticipated overall structure of the meeting will include:

* A joint Student Day held on Sunday, June 22nd that will focus on CEDAR-GEM themes, with additional joint student activities throughout the week. These events will be organized jointly by the GEM and CEDAR student representatives and their respective student committees.
* Morning plenary sessions will be held on Monday-Friday, with most being focused on joint CEDAR-GEM topics. A small number of split plenaries will be scheduled for each community to cover topics of separate relevance.
* Concurrent science/workshop sessions will be held during the late mornings and afternoons, with sessions selected based on proposals/requests submitted by the GEM and CEDAR communities. Sessions will run until 5 pm on Friday. See “Science/Workshop Session Proposals” below for information on the process for this joint GEM-CEDAR Workshop.
* Poster sessions will be held on Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons. Student poster prizes will be awarded and judged separately by the CEDAR and GEM communities. All posters will remain on display for the entire week.
* There will be a number of Community Care sessions and events, including during morning and afternoon plenaries, and at breakfast/lunch events.
* There will be a joint banquet on Thursday evening.

Additional meeting logistics planning has also been underway. More details will be announced throughout the year.

**Science/Workshop Session Proposals**

Background

* GEM science sessions are run by Focus Groups (FGs) which are run by the same co-chairs for 4-5 years. Each fall, new Focus Groups are proposed and voted on by the GEM Steering Committee to start the following GEM Workshop.
* GEM Focus Group leaders work with Meeting Organizers, usually in April, to request the number of sessions they want to run, and which other Focus Groups they want to co-organize sessions with.
* CEDAR workshop sessions are run by co-chairs who propose the sessions each year around February. Most of these are single sessions and only last for that year.
* CEDAR workshop sessions also include three “Grand Challenge” sessions which are proposed and selected each year, but they have a 3-year tenure. (Thus, some are already formed and will continue into 2025.)

2025 Process

* Both GEM Focus Groups and CEDAR session proposers will submit session proposals in the January-February timeframe. More details will be announced early next year.
	+ For GEM Focus Groups: This will look similar to your requests for sessions that you give to the UNH Meeting Organizers, it will just come earlier in the year and have a more formal submission process.
	+ For CEDAR proposers: This will be almost identical to what you are used to.
* **If you plan to submit a joint CEDAR-GEM workshop session proposal**, we strongly encourage you to review the [GEM Focus Groups](https://gem.epss.ucla.edu/mediawiki/index.php/GEM_Focus_Groups) that have expressed interest in collaborating with the CEDAR community and to reach out to the GEM Focus Group leads. Additionally, we recommend that GEM Focus Group leads explore the [existing CEDAR Grand Challenges](https://cedarscience.org/grand-challenge-workshops) for potential joint sessions. Collaborative proposals between CEDAR and a GEM Focus Group are highly encouraged.
	+ On the[GEM website](https://gem.epss.ucla.edu/mediawiki/index.php/GEM_Focus_Groups), active FGs interested in working with a CEDAR workshop are highlighted in green for easy identification.
	+ Note that new GEM FGs will be selected in December during AGU, so watch for more possible collaborations.

The Steering Committees are both very excited for this joint workshop, which hasn’t happened since 2016 but has had mounting interest in the interim. With an increasing awareness of the importance in understanding geospace as a coupled system, the time is ripe for our communities to meet together, to learn from one another, and to work towards doing exciting science together.

Enthusiastically,

The GEM and CEDAR Steering Committees