

UAlbany Invited to Apply for Prestigious Brill Awards

ITS recently submitted applications for two [Brill Awards for Efficient IT](#) on behalf of the University's new Data Center. The Brill Awards are offered by the [Uptime Institute](#), the governing body which granted Tier III certification for the facility. Established in 2014, the awards recognize projects, ideas and products that significantly improve the efficiency of resources used to deliver sustainable IT services. At the invitation of the Uptime Institute, applications were submitted in the categories of IT Systems Efficiency and Data Center Design.

The submission for IT Systems Efficiency highlighted our many improvements to the University's server and storage environment. A new NetApp storage system, major server consolidation effort, and the move from legacy hardware to a virtualized environment helped achieve significant energy savings and improved resource efficiencies. Similarly, the application for Data Center Design reflected UAlbany's commitment to increased efficiencies in service delivery through the application of best practices, cross-organizational partnerships and collaborations.

A Tier III-certified facility, the University at Albany Data Center offers a host of services including built-in redundancy, dual power supplies and expected uptime of at least 99.982%. Uptime Institute certifications, which range from levels I-IV, reflect the degree to which a data center conforms to industry standards for optimizing infrastructure performance, reliability and efficiency. Certifications are given in two distinct areas: design certification indicates that plans drawn for a facility meet the level associated with a given standard. Construction certification reflects that a facility was built in a manner which meets that standard.

The University at Albany is one of the few institutions with Tier III certification in both categories. As such, it is uniquely positioned to serve the academic and research needs of the campus and the broader SUNY community. Colocation agreements are already in place with Hudson Valley Community College and Empire State College. Additionally, several other institutions and external entities have expressed an interest in colocation since the facility's ribbon-cutting ceremony last September.

Winners of the 2015 Brill Awards will be announced in February.

Data Center Efficiency Improvements
Storage reduced from 16 storage platforms to a single NetApp storage system
Electrical consumption reduced by 43%
Heat output reduced by 51%
Physical rack space reduced by 61%
Over 340 virtual machines housed on just 13 blade servers, improving processing speeds and reducing physical space by 52%
62% reduction in the number of devices supporting Data Center operations
Intelligent storage management consolidated 77.3 Tb of data down to 51.1 Tb