

**Research Associate IV  
Cloud Engineer  
26-101**

**Position Summary:**

The Cooperative Institute for Research in the Atmosphere (CIRA) seeks to hire a full-time Cloud Engineer to provide expertise to the Office of Science and Technology Integration (OSTI) of the National Weather Service (NWS), a line office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

The primary goal in the research partnership between the NWS OSTI and CIRA has been to keep abreast of advanced technology and apply it to OSTI. This partnership is focused on providing technical expertise to OSTI. OSTI is responsible for developing and implementing scientific techniques into NWS operations to improve weather and environmental forecasts and services. OSTI provides support to NWS field forecast offices, National Centers for Environmental Prediction (NCEP), and external customers nationwide.

OSTI and CIRA have become cloud leaders within the NWS through the implementation of the Virtual Lab (VLab) Cloud. This partnership has focused on utilizing cloud technologies and tools, specifically Amazon Web Services (AWS), to solve development, testing, and training workflows for the OSTI Portfolio. These workflows focus on streamlining research to operations and include many aspects such as configuration management, developing applications, and promoting DevOps. Research staff investigate these areas and prototype promising technologies. Within the VLab Cloud environment, OSTI and CIRA currently support a wide range of clients (e.g., AWIPS Program, Warning Decision Training Division, Operations Proving Ground, Storm Prediction Center, NCEP Environmental Modeling Center, OSTI Modeling, etc.), where we provide onboarding, development, administration, maintenance, security, and cost support.

The individual in this position will report to a Senior Research Associate and serve as a cloud engineer on the VLab and VLab Cloud projects. Specifically, the individual in this position will perform a combination of cloud architecture, engineering, and DevOps roles, working with NWS staff and contractors to do the following:

- Design and implement solutions to migrate applications from on-premises to the cloud.
- Orchestrate management, monitoring, and administration of cloud systems.
- Maintain and improve existing cloud projects.
- Instill industry best-practices within the team and within hosted projects.
- Document engineered solutions and prepare summary reports for stakeholders.

This work will include participating in remote weekly development discussions and occasional in-person meetings, which may take place in Silver Spring, MD or other locations determined by the federal sponsor. We seek a highly motivated, goal-oriented individual, who loves technology, has excellent communication skills, and works well within a team as well as individually.

This position requires a NOAA Common Access Card (CAC) ID badge for computer access and is therefore open ONLY to citizens of the United States and lawful permanent residents in possession of a physical USCIS “Green Card.” This position is located in a federal facility in Silver Spring, MD and requires the ability to pass a National Agency Check with Inquiries (NACI) Tier 1 federal background check for building access. The office will be in Silver Spring; however, the option exists to work remotely from a home/office. In-person coordination meetings in Silver Spring and other locations will be required up to several times a year, and travel to attend those meetings will be paid by the project.

CSU recognizes the importance of supporting its employees as they balance their career, personal and family life, and that employees must be able to recharge, feel protected in their employment, and take the time they need to improve their overall productivity and health. Faculty, Administrative Professional, and other Non-Classified Staff are provided with paid and unpaid leave benefits to support them and their family and enhance financial security. Full time employees accrue 16 hours of paid annual leave and 10 hours of paid sick leave per month.

Employees also receive paid time off for 11 legal holidays, jury duty, and bereavement leave. CSU retirement plans include a mandatory Defined Contribution Plan (DCP) and several voluntary plans (401(k), 403(b), and 457). CSU employees are required to contribute 8% of their salary to the DCP, but receive a generous 12% employer contribution. CSU's Commitment to Campus offers employees a healthy work-life balance through a wide variety of programs, discounts, and special benefits. This includes Employee Study Privilege (nine free credits per year available through CSU, CSU Global, CSU Online Plus, and University of Northern Colorado), Family Tuition Scholarship Program (50% reduction in tuition), Discounted Veterinary Care, Wellness Membership Discounts, Volunteers in Public Schools Leave Program, Athletic Ticket Discounts, and much more! Visit [hr.colostate.edu/current-employees/benefits](http://hr.colostate.edu/current-employees/benefits) to learn more about working at CSU. This information is a summary and is not all inclusive of benefits offered at CSU.

### **Decision Making Statement:**

Decision making depends on the analysis of the user requirements, software architecture constraints, or technical issues involved with each software build and update. The chosen implementation approach may need to be selected from many alternatives. The individual in this highly independent position will coordinate with VLab and OSTI management and team members through scrums and weekly meetings. The individual in this position will set priorities that correspond to importance and/or urgency of work activities.

### **Essential Job Duties:**

#### Cloud Architecture and Administration – 70%

- Migrate applications from on-premises to the cloud.
- Orchestrate management and administration of OSTI's cloud systems.
- Develop automated techniques for managing configuration of cloud systems.
- Perform occasional customer support as a member of the VLab Support Team.

#### Leadership – 15%

- Provide expertise, consultation, and training on cloud architecture.
- Work with various teams to help migrate applications to the cloud.
- Instill industry best-practices internally within the VLab Project and within hosted projects.

#### Documentation and Reporting – 15%

- Document work in issue tracking systems.
- Prepare platform, infrastructure, DevOps, and software documentation individually and in collaboration with other team members.
- Complete annual reports documenting the status of existing projects.
- Summarize results for sponsors and the broader weather community.

### **Required Qualifications:**

In your cover letter, please specifically address EACH required qualification as it relates to your experience.

An application without a cover letter that addresses each of the required qualifications for this position will not be considered further.

- Education:
  - Bachelor's degree in computer science or a related technical field plus:
    - 10 years of practical technical experience.
  - OR
  - Master's degree in computer science or a related technical field plus:
    - 5 years of practical technical experience.
  - OR
  - PhD in computer science or a related technical field plus:
    - 2 years of practical technical experience.
- Must be a citizen of the United States or Lawful Permanent Resident with a physical USCIS "Green Card."

- Ability to pass a National Agency Check with Inquiries (NACI) federal background check and receive a NOAA Common Access Card (CAC) ID badge.
- At least 3 years of cloud architecture, engineering, platform, and DevOps experience within Amazon Web Services (AWS).
- Willingness to adhere to design, coding, and other project conventions.
- Willingness to learn new skills for professional growth within the position.
- High degree of initiative and the ability to self-manage.
- Ability to work within a team environment.
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills.
- Must be reliable, self-motivated, and comfortable working in an agile and creative team environment.

### **Preferred Qualifications:**

In your cover letter, please specifically address the applicable preferred qualifications for this position. A cover letter that fails to address the preferred qualifications for this position may not be considered further after review by the search committee.

- Certifications:
  - Kubernetes certification (CKA, CKAD, etc.)
  - AWS certification (Solutions Architect - Associate / Professional, etc.).
- AWIPS Experience
  - Developing applications
  - Administering an operational AWIPS system
- System administration experience within a Linux environment.
- Kubernetes cluster administration and/or application development experience.
- In-depth experience with Infrastructure as Code (IaC) (Terraform preferred, CloudFormation).
- Creating and maintaining CI/CD pipelines.
- Practical experience with containerization.
- Experience with GitLab.
- Experience with code review.
- Experience with system configuration management tools (Ansible preferred).
- Fluent in scripting languages, including at least Bash and Python.
- Experience developing solutions for other big 3 cloud environments (i.e. Microsoft Azure, GCP).
- Knowledge of cloud security principles to protect from unauthorized users and malicious attacks.
- Knowledge of operational meteorology, NWS operations, and NWS users and partners.

**Annual Salary Range:** \$120,000 - \$150,000 commensurate with experience and qualifications

### **Background Check:**

Colorado State University strives to provide a safe study, work, and living environment for its faculty, staff, volunteers and students. To support this environment and comply with applicable laws and regulations, CSU conducts background checks. The type of background check conducted varies by position and can include, but is not limited to, criminal history, sex offender registry, motor vehicle history, financial history, and/or education verification. Background checks will also be conducted when required by law or contract and when, in the discretion of the University, it is reasonable and prudent to do so.

**Application Deadline:**

Applications will be accepted until the position is filled; however, to ensure full consideration applications should be submitted by 11.59 PM MT on Monday, April 13, 2026. For full position announcement and to apply, please click “Apply to this Job” at the following website: [https://csusystem.wd12.myworkdayjobs.com/fortcollins\\_careers/job/Silver-Spring-MD/XMLNAME-26-101---Cloud-Engineer\\_R2026103075](https://csusystem.wd12.myworkdayjobs.com/fortcollins_careers/job/Silver-Spring-MD/XMLNAME-26-101---Cloud-Engineer_R2026103075) . NOTE: In your cover letter, please specifically address the required and preferred qualifications of this position. A cover letter that fails to address the qualifications of this position may not be further considered after review by the search committee.

Colorado State University is committed to providing an environment that is free from discrimination and harassment based on race, age, creed, color, religion, national origin or ancestry, sex, gender, disability, veteran status, genetic information, sexual orientation, gender identity/expression, or pregnancy in its employment, programs, services and activities, and admissions, and, in certain circumstances, marriage to a co-worker. The University will not discharge or in any other manner discriminate against employees or applicants because they have inquired about, discussed, or disclosed their own pay or the pay of another employee or applicant. Colorado State University is an equal opportunity and equal access institution and affirmative action employer fully committed to achieving a diverse workforce and complies with all Federal and Colorado State laws, regulations, and executive orders regarding non-discrimination and affirmative action. [The Office of Equal Opportunity](#) is located in 101 Student Services. The Title IX Coordinator is the Director of the Office of Title IX Programs and Gender Equity, 123 Student Services Building, Fort Collins, CO 80523-0160, (970) 491-1715, [titleix@colostate.edu](mailto:titleix@colostate.edu). The Section 504 and ADA Coordinator is the Director of the Office of Equal Opportunity, 101 Student Services Building, Fort Collins, CO 80523-0160, (970) 491-5836, [oeo@colostate.edu](mailto:oeo@colostate.edu). The Coordinator for any other forms of misconduct prohibited by the University’s Policy on Discrimination and Harassment is the Vice President for Equity, Equal Opportunity and Title IX, 101 Student Services Building, Fort Collins, Co. 80523-0160, (970) 491-5836, [oeo@colostate.edu](mailto:oeo@colostate.edu). Any person may report sex discrimination under Title IX to the [Office of Civil Rights, Department of Education](#).