FIRST ANNUAL GULF COAST AI SUMMIT AND RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

Schedule at a Glance

November 19–20, 2026 · Shelby Hall (SHEC), University of South Alabama · 150 Jaguar Drive, Mobile, AL 36688 · Free, registration required

Opening and keynote | Workshop | Panel | Talk | Research showcase | Break | Reception

Thursday, November 19

12:00–6:00 PM (Atrium)
Registration

12:45–1:15 PM (SHEC 2119)
Welcome and opening. Welcome and IEEE introduction, with messages from university leaders

1:15–2:15 PM (SHEC 2119)
Keynote and Q&A
AI in Teaching, Learning and the Future of Work
Dr. Jim Locke

2:15–2:30 PM Move to workshop rooms

2:30–3:30 PM (SHEC 4206)
Hands-On Edge AI: Train a Model and Build a Smart Sorter
Dr. Wang, ECE

2:30–3:30 PM (SHEC 4211)
Practical AI: Unleashing Gemini
Dr. Montalvo, ME

2:30–3:30 PM (SHEC 4217)
Faculty-Directed AI for Canvas Course Development and Management
Dr. Arslan

2:30–3:30 PM (SHEC 4212)
AI-Based Scientific Research
Dr. Soumyajit Dey, ECE

2:30–4:45 PM
Hands-On Deep Learning for Cancer Detection (SHEC 2119)
Transfer learning with pre-trained CNNs on colon and lung histopathology images
Dr. Hossain, ECE

3:30–3:45 PM Break and refreshments

3:45–4:45 PM (SHEC 4211)
Architects, Not Spectators: From Vibe Coding to AI Agency
Dr. Kolitha, ECE

3:45–4:45 PM (SHEC 4217)
The AI Classroom Toolkit
Dr. Jim Locke

3:45–4:45 PM (SHEC 4212)
Trust, But Verify: Working Wisely with AI Every Day
Dr. Wassenaar, MCOB

5:00–6:00 PM (SHEC 2119)
Panel: Careers in the Age of AI
Jobs, Disruption and Entrepreneurship
Beau Claar, Austin Carr, Phillip Hansel (CEO, Ai-Ops) and Curtis Wright (CAO, Ai-Ops)

Friday, November 20

10:30–10:55 AM (SHEC 2119) | Alabama AI policy
Aaron Wright, Alabama Office of Information Technology

10:55–11:20 AM (SHEC 2119) | Mississippi's Approach to AI Policy
Dr. Kollin Napier, MAIN

11:20 AM–12:30 PM (SHEC 2119)
Midday break

12:30–1:30 PM (SHEC 2119) | The Biggest AI Trend and How Agentic Systems Are Designed
Jay Maru, AI Consultant at Beyond AI

1:30–1:55 PM (SHEC 2119) | How does AI affect patents and intellectual property? Doug Bridges

2:00–3:00 PM (SHEC 2119) | Panel: Responsible AI: Ethics, Policy, Innovation and Intellectual Property
Doug Bridges, Aaron Wright, Dr. Kollin Napier, Beau Claar, and Jay Maru

3:10–4:10 PM (SHEC 2119) | Graduate research pitches
USA graduate students present funded research to a live audience

4:15–5:15 PM (Atrium)
Open poster showcase
Meet the researchers and see their posters

5:15–6:00 PM (Atrium)
Closing reception

Hosted by the USA Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, the IEEE/HKN Student Branch and the IEEE Mobile Section. gulf-coast-ai-summit.web.app

Sponsored by the College of Engineering, the Student Government Association (SGA) and the Office of Research and Economic Development. · Program may change