FIRST ANNUAL

Gulf Coast AI Summit

and Research Symposium

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

November 19–20, 2026
Shelby Hall, University of South Alabama, Mobile



UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH ALABAMA
FLAGSHIP OF THE GULF COAST.

IEEE
Advancing Technology for Humanity

Hosted by
USA Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, the IEEE/HKN Student Branch, and the IEEE Mobile Section

gulf-coast-ai-summit.web.app

Why sponsor the Summit

Your support puts your company in front of up to 120 students, educators and AI professionals per session at the first Gulf Coast AI Summit, held in Mobile on November 19-20, 2026. Attendance is free, and sponsors cover the food, speakers and student research awards that make that possible.

Sponsors also help build the regional AI talent pipeline. Students meet employers at Thursday's careers panel, and graduate researchers present their work to industry guests on Friday.

The Summit at a glance

The First Annual Gulf Coast AI Summit and Research Symposium is a free two-day event on the University of South Alabama campus.

- **Dates:** Thursday and Friday, November 19-20, 2026
- **Place:** Shelby Hall, University of South Alabama, 150 Jaguar Drive, Mobile, AL 36688
- **Hosts:** USA Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, the IEEE/HKN Student Branch, and the IEEE Mobile Section
- **Cost to attend:** free, with registration required and a limit of 120 attendees per session
- **Thursday:** keynote on teaching with AI, hands-on workshops in two rounds, and a careers panel
- **Friday:** state AI policy talks, a panel on responsible AI and intellectual property, graduate research pitches, a poster showcase, and a closing reception
- **Website:** gulf-coast-ai-summit.web.app

Who will be in the room

The Summit brings together five groups, with room for up to 120 attendees in each session, and different people at different sessions:

- Undergraduate and graduate students
- Faculty and instructors
- K-12 educators
- Industry professionals and startups
- Members of the public

Speakers include Aaron Wright, Chief Artificial Intelligence Officer of the Alabama Office of Information Technology; Dr. Kollin Napier, Chief Artificial Intelligence Officer of the Mississippi Artificial Intelligence Network (MAIN); Beau Claar, AI Tech Lead at the Alabama Office of Information Technology; and Dr. Jim Locke, who gives the Thursday keynote.

Hands-on workshops run on Thursday afternoon and cover edge AI with Arduino hardware, agentic coding, Gemini for everyday workflows, AI for Canvas course development, and deep learning for cancer detection. More sessions are being added.

Sponsorship levels

Choose a level, or sponsor a specific part of the event. Amounts are suggested and we welcome in-kind support.

Level	Contribution	What you receive
Presenting sponsor (1 available)	$3,500	"Presented by" credit on the website, flyer, program and registration emails; largest logo on the printed signage; up to 2 minutes of remarks at the opening or closing reception; exhibit table; thank-you posts on social media
Platinum	$2,000	Prominent logo on the website, program and signage; exhibit table; named in the opening remarks
Gold	$1,000	Logo on the website and program; recognized during the sponsor acknowledgments
Silver	$500	Logo on the website and event materials, and thank you note
Bronze	$250	Thank you note on the opening and closing, and logo on the website

Tax Information: In accordance with IRS regulations, the tax-deductible portion of sponsorship contributions is limited to the amount of your gift in excess of the fair market value (FMV) of goods and services provided. Estimated FMV of benefits: Presenting Sponsor: $2,100 | Platinum Sponsor: $600.

What your support makes possible

The total event budget is about $8,257, including a 5% contingency. Catering is the largest cost, because we plan to feed attendees at the opening keynote, the careers panel and the Friday featured talk, and to host our speakers on both days. The host organizations provide the Shelby Hall rooms and AV. All figures are estimates until quotes are final.

Category	Approximate amount	What it covers
Catering	$5,590	Light lunch at the keynote, pizza or snacks at the careers panel and Friday featured talk, refreshments both days, speaker dinner and lunch, and the closing reception
Speakers and guests	$1,170	Travel, lodging for out-of-town speakers, and thank-you gifts
Marketing and printing	$520	Badges, programs and promotion
Research symposium	$450	Poster boards and student awards
Logistics	$50	Registration table supplies
Contingency	$477	A 5% reserve for unexpected costs

Recognition and timeline

Commit by Friday, November 6 to have your logo on the printed program.

Date	What happens
Friday, November 6	Sponsorship commitments and logos due for print materials
Thursday and Friday, November 19-20	The Summit, with sponsor recognition on signage, in the program and in remarks
December	Thank-you report to sponsors with attendance numbers and event photos

How to sponsor

1. Choose a level or an item from the tables above.
2. Email us to confirm your choice.
3. Send your logo (vector format such as SVG or EPS, or a high-resolution PNG) and a one-sentence description of your company.
4. Complete payment or arrange in-kind support.

   Payment instructions: Pay online by credit card

- Sponsors can pay by check or credit card:
  - Checks should be made payable to 'the University of South Alabama' with 'Gulf Coast AI Summit' listed on the memo line.
  - If paying by credit card, please reach out to Ben Macon, Development Officer, Office of University Development, University of South Alabama, for credit card payment details.

    Email: benmacon@southalabama.edu

    Phone: 251-460-7032

We also welcome in-kind support, such as catering, printing, or banners. In-kind sponsors receive recognition matched to the value of the contribution.

Contacts

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