



CAHSI Summit 2026

Co-located with Greater Minds in Stem (GMiS)
Albuquerque, New Mexico, September 17-19



2026 Conference Brochure

<https://cahsi.org>
www.greatmindsinstem.org/gmis2026



Executive Summary

For nearly a decade, **Great Minds in STEM (GMiS)** and **Computing Alliance of Hispanic-Serving (CAHSI)** have partnered to strengthen and broaden the nation's computing workforce. CAHSI is a nationally recognized consortium of Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs), industry partners, government agencies, non-profits, and individuals united by a shared mission. CAHSI is committed to ensuring representation across computing, AI, Quantum Computing and other emerging technologies.

Through evidence-based practices, CAHSI engages students in high-impact learning experiences, supports persistence and degree completion, and prepares students to excel academically, conduct research, and thrive in collaborative, real-world environments. Together, GMiS and CAHSI cultivate **highly skilled, workforce-ready talent** equipped with both technical depth and leadership capacity—meeting critical industry and national needs in computing and AI-driven fields.

Program Goals

CAHSI-sponsored programming is designed to:

- **Expand recruitment, retention, and degree completion** of highly qualified domestic students.
- **Develop leadership and mentorship pipelines** through sustained faculty–student and peer collaborations.
- **Advance scalable practices** that strengthen institutional capacity and participation across the computing ecosystem.

Target Audience

Our programs directly engage and benefit:

- **undergraduate and graduate students** pursuing degrees in computing and AI-driven fields,
- **faculty mentors and institutional leaders** shaping next-generation research and education, and
- **industry and community partners** seeking prepared and mission-aligned talent.

CAHSI Sponsorship Opportunities

CAHSI invites industry, academic, and community partners to support its sessions through sponsorship opportunities ranging from **\$5,000 to \$50,000**.

Sponsoring sessions contributes to high-quality learning experiences, strengthening pathways into computing careers. For sponsorship inquiries, please contact Rosa Alfaro at **rialfaro@utep.edu**

Sponsorship Benefits

- **Direct engagement opportunities** with a cohort of ~600 emerging computing professionals
- **Brand visibility** across high-impact program materials, communications, and events
- **Strategic recognition** through LinkedIn and other professional social platforms
- **Early access to talent pipelines** aligned with industry-relevant skills and leadership & research experiences.

Your investment helps shape the future computing workforce, while positioning your organization as a leader committed to innovation and excellence!

AI Readiness Sessions

(\$50,000 + additional slots at \$25,000 each)

CAHSI aims to bring together community leaders and representatives from universities, national labs, rural/tribal organizations, and small businesses committed to define unifying regional initiatives that build AI readiness. In addition, CAHSI will offer three practical AI Readiness workshops to community members on (1) AI literacy, (2) data and infrastructure readiness, and (3) organizational AI. strategy.



Generative AI Faculty and Student Sessions (Funded)

Two different sessions focus on the building competencies in generative AI. Faculty learn about the Google-sponsored Gen AI CS Education Consortium and learn about effective strategies for integrating generative AI into foundation courses with an emphasis on building students' critical thinking and design skills while ensuring learning when integrating generative AI tools into computing courses. The student courses help students build competencies in generative AI while understanding its limitation.



AI + Quantum Faculty and Student Session

The session provides an introductory module on Quantum Computing (QC) foundations, designed to build 'quantum-aware' literacy by exploring how quantum parallelism may eventually address current limitations in Generative AI scale and optimization. This component will serve as the first exposure to QC at the Summit and as motivation for the following sessions, which will be fully focused on QC. The session will address:

1. Quantum Literacy & "Quantum-Smart" Concepts
2. The Intersection of AI and Quantum (Quantum AI)
3. Real-World Exposure and Career Pathways



Cybersecurity Hackathon - Capture the Flag Competition with Quantum (2 slots @ \$15,000)

This workshop introduces students to the intersection of quantum information science and cybersecurity, one of the most consequential frontiers in the field. It opens with a concise presentation covering the core concepts students need to engage meaningfully with quantum security, including: qubits, superposition, and entanglement as they relate to information processing; how Shor's algorithm threatens widely deployed public-key cryptosystems such as RSA; and how quantum key distribution (QKD) protocols like BB84 leverage the laws of physics to achieve theoretically unbreakable secure communication. Using Qiskit, IBM's open-source quantum computing framework, students implement a simplified BB84 key distribution protocol, simulate eavesdropping, and observe how quantum mechanics makes interception detectable, and explore the behavior of a basic quantum circuit that illustrates why classical cryptanalysis fails against certain quantum algorithms. No prior quantum computing experience is required. The exercise is designed to be accessible while giving students a genuine taste of programming for quantum systems.

The Hackathon brings the material students learned during the morning workshops to real life in a competitive, team-based format. Students work in teams (3) to solve challenges that test their cybersecurity skills across multiple domains. This year's Hackathon introduces a dedicated quantum security challenge track. Teams will tackle problems that require reasoning about quantum cryptographic protocols, identifying weaknesses in classical cryptosystems that quantum algorithms can exploit, and defending communications against simulated quantum-capable adversaries.



CAHSI Advocates Community-Building Session (Funded)

The CAHSI Advocates Community-Building Session is a unique opportunity for the CAHSI Student Advocates attending GMiS to learn how to involve students within their respective computing communities and connect them to opportunities with industry partners. CAHSI Student Advocates build and maintain a thriving community by leveraging various strategies such as networking, mentorship, communication, and engagement practices. This session provides professional development activities designed to empower the next generation of technology professions with the skills necessary to thrive in the workplace and create positive change and transfer knowledge gained to students at their universities.



Data Analytics Challenge (3 slots at \$5,000 each)

Students practice team skills and engage in a hands-on competition to find patterns and answer questions about a pre-determined set of raw data. This includes an overview on the relevance of data analytics in the workforce. Recommended for final-year undergraduate students and new graduate students.



Machine Learning Session (2 slots at \$10,000 each)

Students learn and apply fundamental Machine Learning/AI concepts through a series of hands-on activities, including how machine learning problems are framed, and how neural networks work.



Research Poster Competition (6 slots at \$3000 each)

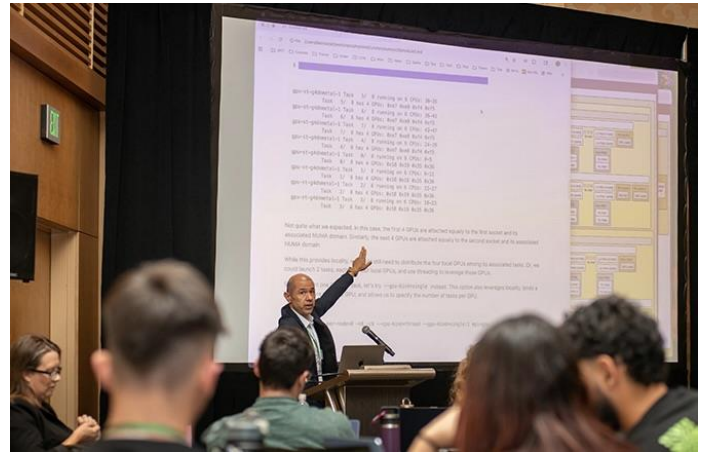
The research poster competition gives students the opportunity to compete and showcase their scientific and technical expertise. Students submit a comprehensive technical abstract, from which presenters are selected to display their posters and answer questions during the poster session.

Sponsorship supports awards stipends to the top undergraduate and graduate winners. This is an excellent opportunity to identify potential employees and prospective graduate students early. Up to 150 posters will be accepted.



Supercomputing Foundations (Funded)

Experts lead this workshop designed to provide an interactive introduction to High-Performance Computing (HPC), focusing on foundational concepts, practical applications, and hands-on exercises. Attendees explore the basics of supercomputers, learn essential Linux skills, and gain experience with parallel programming using MPI and OpenMP. Through guided exercises, participants build and run serial and parallel programs, analyze differences in execution, and manage jobs in an HPC environment. Hands-on exercises conducted in an AWS cluster environment ensure practical exposure to real-world HPC systems.



Ignite Tomorrow's Innovators: Connect, Learn and Grow (Volunteers needed; 2 slots at \$4,000 each)

The session is directed at emerging computer scientists and technologists. The session features role models, including leaders from academia and industry who discuss how students can build and extend their professional network on campus and during profession events. All students and professionals are welcome to attend.



CAHSI Recognition Luncheon & Awards (\$40,000 or 2 slots at \$20,000 each)

The luncheon is an opportunity for CAHSI faculty, students, and industry sponsors to network. CAHSI Student Scholars and Student Advocates are recognized for their community-engagement efforts. This event will also showcase awardees from other competitions.



Explore CAHSI Graduate Pathways (Funded)

The "Explore CAHSI Graduate Pathways" is located with the GMIS Career Fair and provides students with an opportunity to learn about how graduate studies support building their assets and lead to opportunities that can change their future. Students who visit the booth can identify graduate programs in their region and meet with representatives, including faculty and students, to learn more about specific programs and opportunities.





SUMMARY OF SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Student Workshops:

- _____ Cybersecurity Workshop and Hackathon
(2 slots available at \$15,000 each)
- _____ Data Analytics Challenge (3 slots at \$5,000 each)
- _____ Machine Learning (2 slots at \$10,000 each)
- _____ Research Poster Competition (6 slots at \$3,000 each)

Networking Events:

- _____ Ignite Tomorrow's Innovators: Connect, Learn, and Grow
(2 slots at \$4,000 each)
- _____ CAHSI Recognition Luncheon and Awards
(\$40,000 or 2 slots at \$20,000 each)

Panels and Industry Sessions:

- _____ AI Readiness Sessions
(\$50,000 or 2 slots at \$25,000 each)

Travel Scholarships

- _____ Student travel scholarship (\$5,000 will fund 5 students)

Total: _____

To learn about other Great Minds in STEM session and learn about the Career Fair, please visit their [website](http://www.cahsi.org).