The 77th Annual American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics Region II Student Conference

hosted by

University of South Carolina
AIAA Student Branch

March 26-27, 2026
Columbia, South Carolina

The Conference

The **AIAA Region II Student Conference** is the premier annual event for aerospace engineering students across the Southeastern United States. Each year, the conference brings together hundreds of the region's brightest undergraduate and graduate students—along with faculty, industry professionals, and government representatives—for two days of technical presentations, professional development, and networking.

The **77th Annual Conference**, hosted by the **University of South Carolina**, will take place **March 26–27, 2026**, in **Columbia, South Carolina**—a growing aerospace hub in the Southeast.

This conference gives students the opportunity to present original research and design projects in a professional forum modeled after AIAA's national conferences. Professionals from industry, academia, and government serve as judges, offering feedback, mentorship, and insight as they evaluate the top papers and presentations in several competition categories.

Beyond the technical sessions, the conference includes:

- An **Opening Keynote Address**
- A **Networking Luncheon** featuring a distinguished speaker
- A **Recruiting & Employer Hall** open throughout the first day
- A **Professional Mixer and Networking Reception**
- An **Awards Banquet and Winners' Reception** to close the conference.

This event showcases innovation, connects talent with opportunity, and fosters the next generation of aerospace professionals.

The AIAA Region II Student Conference website can be found at LINK.

Why Sponsor the 2026 Conference

Sponsorship of the AIAA Region II Student Conference is an investment in the future of aerospace—and one of the most direct, rewarding ways to engage with top emerging talent from across the Southeast: the next generation of engineers, researchers, and leaders.

Recruitment and Exposure

Sponsors engage directly with students from more than 20 leading universities, representing aerospace programs known for producing industry-ready engineers. Many attendees are actively seeking internships and full-time employment.

Sponsors also receive strong brand visibility throughout the conference—in the Employer Hall, during keynote and luncheon events, and across all printed and digital materials.

Access to Emerging Talent

Unlike traditional recruiting events, sponsors at this conference see candidates in action—presenting research, communicating complex ideas, and demonstrating technical mastery. This interaction provides a deeper, more authentic understanding of student capabilities and potential.

Corporate Citizenship and Industry Leadership

Your support demonstrates a visible commitment to advancing aerospace education, innovation, and workforce development. Sponsorship signals that your organization is helping cultivate the next generation of aerospace professionals.

AIAA Connection

The event is modeled after AIAA's national forums, creating a bridge between academia and the professional society that unites the global aerospace community. Sponsors connect directly with students, faculty, and professionals who represent the future of AIAA's technical excellence and innovation.

<u>Sponsorship Levels</u>

All sponsors receive recognition on the conference website, in the digital program. All sponsors above Supporters are recognized on-screen at major conference events (Opening Keynote, Luncheon, and Awards Banquet), invited to maintain a presence in the Employer Hall and attend the Winners' Reception following the Awards Banquet.

Sponsors also enjoy inclusion in the online Sponsor Showcase, replacing the legacy USB drive. Depending on sponsorship level, organizations can provide company profiles, recruiting links, and video links for direct student access before and after the conference.

Supporter (up to $500)
- Recognition as a conference sponsor across all major media and logo placement on the conference website.

Contributor ($500 and above)
- Recognition as a conference sponsor across all major media and logo placement on the conference website.
- Invitation to host a table in the Employer Hall.
- Access to the Faculty & Professional Member Hospitality Suite.
- Company logo with link to your corporate website in the online Sponsor Showcase, which is promoted in the Opening Keynote, Networking Luncheon, and Awards Banquet sessions.
- Invitation to the Winners' Reception following the Awards Banquet.

Bronze Sponsor ($1000 and above)
- All Contributor-level benefits.
- Include a link to your organization's careers page in the online Sponsor Showcase.
- Opportunity to sponsor one Bronze-level branded item as described in the following section below.

Silver Sponsor ($2000 and above)
- All Bronze-level benefits.
- Advance access to the list of student attendees (name, school, graduation year, and contact email) for recruiting follow-up.
- Enhanced presence in the online Sponsor Showcase with a link to a corporate video (YouTube or equivalent).

- Opportunity to sponsor one Silver-level or two Bronze-level branded items as described in the following section below.

Gold Sponsor ($3500 and above)
- All Silver-level benefits.
- One complimentary ticket to the Conference Luncheon.
- Advance access to any student résumés submitted prior to the conference.
- Opportunity to sponsor one Gold-level or two lower-level branded items as described in the following section below.

Platinum Sponsor ($5000 and above)
- All Gold-level benefits.
- One complimentary ticket to the Awards Banquet.
- Early access to all student paper submissions.
- Enhanced recognition throughout the event, including spotlight acknowledgment at the Awards Banquet.
- Opportunity to sponsor one Platinum-level or, if unavailable, two lower-level branded items as described in the following section below.

Platinum Plus Sponsor ($7000 and above)
- All Platinum-level benefits.
- An additional complimentary ticket (2 total) to the Awards Banquet.
- First Platinum Plus commitment recognized as the Top-Billed Awards Banquet Sponsor.
- Opportunity for customized on-site branding (e.g., signage, photo backdrop, or Faculty & Professional Member Hospitality Suite).

Corporate Host Sponsor
- The top Platinum or Platinum Plus sponsor will be recognized as the Conference Corporate Host.
- Option to serve as Awards Banquet Emcee.
- Special acknowledgment in all communications, signage, and on the conference website homepage.

Sponsorship Opportunities

Branded sponsorship opportunities available for the 2026 AIAA Region II Student Conference are limited and available on a **first-to-claim** basis. Sponsorship for any events (plenaries, sessions, etc.) will be verbally acknowledged during that event.

The first part of the list consists of sponsorship opportunities that are required to host the conference, followed by additional opportunities available once all required opportunities are claimed.

Bronze-Level Opportunities

Technical Session Sponsor – Half Day
Support the student paper presentations at the heart of the conference. Includes signage in session rooms for a morning or afternoon session and acknowledgment in the program. (multiple available)

Badge Sponsor
Your logo on every attendee's badge—high visibility from start to finish. (1 available)

Silver-Level Opportunities

Technical Session Sponsor – Full Day
Support the student paper presentations at the heart of the conference. Includes signage in session rooms and acknowledgment in the program. (multiple available)

Swag Bag Sponsor
Your logo on every attendee's conference bag—maximum visibility that lasts long after the event. (1 available)

Gold-Level Opportunities

Winner's Reception Sponsor
Celebrate student success and mingle with award recipients, judges, and professionals. Includes event signage and verbal acknowledgment. (1 available)

Opening Keynote Sponsor
Be the first name attendees hear. Includes a 2–4 minute live introduction and/or short corporate video before the keynote speaker, plus premier logo placement during the session. (1 available)

Conference Luncheon Sponsor
Engage attendees mid-conference with a captive audience during the Luncheon. Includes a 2–4 minute speaking opportunity and/or corporate video presentation. (2 available)

Platinum-Level Opportunities

Awards Banquet Sponsor (Priority to the first two Platinum Plus sponsors, then Platinum sponsors)
The signature event of the conference. Includes logo placement on all banquet materials, and the opportunity for an extended ($\leq$ 5 minutes) live or video segment during the Awards Banquet. (2 available).

Additional Opportunities

The following options are available once the previously listed required opportunities have been funded. If the required opportunities still remain un-funded and an organization has two selections available, it may pick an option below provided they also pick a required opportunity.

Bronze-Level Opportunities

QR Code Luncheon Table Branding
Feature a QR code on luncheon tables to drive attendees directly to your recruiting page or company profile. (4 available)

Silver-Level Opportunities

QR Code Awards Banquet Table Branding
Feature a QR code on awards banquet tables to drive attendees directly to your recruiting page or company profile. (4 available)

Corporate Display / Photo Backdrop Sponsor
Place a branded photo backdrop or display sign in a high-traffic area. Every conference photo becomes a brand moment. (3 available)

Gold-Level Opportunities

Box Lunch Sponsor
Provide lunch for students during the final day of the conference. Includes branding during distribution and recognition in the program. (1 available)

Morning Coffee & Refreshments Sponsor
Feature your logo as attendees gather for the opening session. Includes branded coffee stations or signage. (2 available)

Have an idea and don't see it here? Organizations are welcome to propose specialized branding or participation concepts (such as sponsored giveaways, hospitality suites, or interactive demonstrations) that align with the conference mission and sponsorship level. The level associated with each custom opportunity is negotiable. Opportunities may be contingent upon having all required activities sponsored.

How to Get Involved

Becoming a sponsor is simple — **and impactful**.

Whether your organization's goal is recruiting, visibility, or professional outreach, the AIAA Region II Student Conference provides the platform to make meaningful connections and shape the future of aerospace.

To discuss available sponsorship levels or branded opportunities, please contact:

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On behalf of Region II, the student branch chair and faculty advisor of the **AIAA Student Branch at the University of South Carolina** look forward to welcoming your organization to Columbia for another exceptional AIAA Region II Student Conference.

Michael Cargill	*Dr. Wout De Backer*, Assistant Professor
AIAA Student Branch Chair	Mechanical Engineering | Aerospace Engineering
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	University of South Carolina