



**Florida STEM Symposium**  
UF CENTER FOR PRECOLLEGIATE EDUCATION & TRAINING

# 2026 Florida STEM Symposium

**Welcome to the Florida STEM Symposium, see the following for our schedules:**

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The 2026 Florida STEM Symposium (FSS) is a three-day science conference designed for 9–12th grade high school students, teachers, and parents. The program is administered by the University of Florida Center for Precollegiate Education and Training (CPET) and provides participants with an immersive introduction to university-level research, academic pathways, and STEM careers.

While participating in the Florida STEM Symposium, students, teachers, and parents will have the opportunity to:

- Interact with University of Florida faculty, graduate students, and undergraduate students to explore university-level research.
- Learn about the University of Florida and gain insight into a wide range of academic and career pathways.
- Visit University of Florida research laboratories to learn about current research, ongoing discoveries, and how scientific and engineering questions are investigated at the university level.
- Present original research through participation in the STEM Research Competition or during non-competitive poster and oral presentation sessions, allowing students to develop professional scientific communication skills.
- Promote, share, and network around research and experimentation at the secondary school level in science, mathematics, and engineering, while connecting with peers, educators, and university researchers.

The major events at the Florida STEM Symposium include:

- The Competitive Speaker Session - featuring 24 students invited to present their submitted individual research projects.
- Two Non-Competitive STEM Sessions - the Open Poster Session and Presentation Session featuring over 100 Florida High School students presenting research projects to their peers and campus stakeholders.
- Keynote Speaker and Graduate Student Plenary Panel - introducing students to cutting edge research and unique career paths demonstrated by esteemed UF faculty and graduate students.
- Research Lab Tours - Allowing students to observe where research happens on campus and draw inspiration from interactions with research professionals.



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## Comprehensive Schedule

### Sunday, February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026

3:00 pm -4:00 pm	<p><b>Program Registration &amp; Check-In</b></p> <p><i>Hotel check-in will either happen at the Reitz Union, or at the hotels starting at 5:00 PM after the welcome session.</i></p>	<p>Reitz Union Grand Ballroom</p> <p><b>2<sup>nd</sup> Floor</b></p>
4:00 pm - 4:20 pm	<p><b>Words of Welcome and Staff Introductions</b></p> <p><b>STEM Speaker Introductions</b></p> <p>Danae Perry Florida STEM Symposium Director Center for Precollegiate Education and Training</p>	<p>Reitz Union Grand Ballroom</p> <p><b>2<sup>nd</sup> Floor</b></p>
4:20 pm - 5:00 pm <i>Plenary Panel</i>	<p>Graduate Student Panel</p>	<p>Reitz Union Grand Ballroom</p> <p><b>2<sup>nd</sup> Floor</b></p>
5:30 pm - 9:00 pm	<p><b>Speaker Practice Sessions</b> – sign up at registration desk</p>	<p>Reitz Union Meeting Rooms</p> <p><b>2<sup>nd</sup> Floor</b></p>
5:00 PM - 9:00 PM	<p><b>Evening free time</b> – hotel check-in, explore Gainesville</p>	<p><b>Gainesville Area</b></p>

### Monday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2026

6:30 am - 8:00 am	<p><b>Breakfast</b></p>	<p>Hotel</p>
8:00 am - 8:30 am	<p><b>Competitive Session Set-up</b></p> <p>Speakers confirm final presentations are loaded in their assigned rooms.</p>	<p>Reitz Union – Meeting Rooms</p> <p><b>2<sup>nd</sup> Floor</b></p>
<b>8:30 AM</b>	<p><b>Please Arrive by 8:30 AM for timely start of Symposium Schedule</b></p>	<p>Reitz Union Grand Ballroom</p>



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8:45 am – 9:00 am	<p><b>Opening Session</b></p> <p>Danae Perry Florida STEM Symposium Director Center for Precollegiate Education and Training</p>	Reitz Union Grand Ballroom
9:15 am – 11:30 am	<p><b>FSS Student Speaker Competition</b></p> <p>(see schedule)</p>	Reitz Union Meeting Rooms 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor
11:30 am – 1:15 pm	<p><b>Lunch and UF College Fair</b></p> <p>Information from UF colleges, departments, science clubs and pre-professional organizations. UF Admissions will provide information about opportunities at UF.</p>	Reitz Union Grand Ballroom <b>College Fair from 12:00 – 1:15 PM</b>
1:00 pm – 1:15 pm	<p><b>STEM Research Presentations Set-up</b></p> <p>Student (5-Minute Talk) presenters report to rooms to set-up presentations.</p>	Reitz Union – Meeting Rooms 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor
1:20 pm – 3:20 pm	<p><b>STEM Research Presentations</b></p> <p>See program book for assigned rooms.</p>	Reitz Union – Meeting Rooms 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor
3:20 pm – 5:00 pm	<p><b>Break</b></p>	<i>Students may return to their hotel prior to banquet.</i>
4:45 pm – 5:00 pm	<p><b>Poster Session Set-up</b></p> <p>See program book for assigned locations or a CPET staff member for assistance.</p>	Reitz Union Grand Ballroom
4:45 pm – 6:00 pm	<p><b>Attendee Open Poster Session</b></p> <p>Students stand by their research poster. Other participants please pick up a poster passport from CPET staff</p>	Reitz Union Grand Ballroom
6:00 pm – 7:30 pm	<p><b>2026 Florida STEM Symposium Banquet and Keynote Address</b></p>	Reitz Union Grand Ballroom
Keynote Introduction	<p>Dr. Hazel Levy Associate Director Center for Precollegiate Education and Training</p>	
Keynote Speaker	<p>Dr. Christine Schmidt Distinguished Professor &amp; J. Crayton Pruitt Family Endowed Chair</p>	



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	Department of Biomedical Engineering	
7:30 pm – 8:30 pm	<b>Optional Social Activity</b>	Reitz Union Grand Ballroom

## Tuesday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2026

6:30 am – 8:00 am	<b>Breakfast</b>	Hotel
7:30 am - 8:15 am	<b>Hotel Check Out</b>	Load luggage into transportation
8:30 am – 8:45 am	<b>Lab Visit Breakout</b> Please arrive at 8:30 to get into lab tour groups in a timely manner	Reitz Union Grand Ballroom
<b>8:30 AM</b>	<b>Please Arrive by 8:30 AM for timely start of Symposium Schedule</b>	Reitz Union Grand Ballroom
9:00 am – 11:00 am	<b>Lab Visits</b>	Campus
11:15 am – 12:00 pm	<b>2026 STEM Symposium Awards Ceremony</b> <i>Light refreshments &amp; hors d'oeuvres</i>	Reitz Union Grand Ballroom
<i>Introduction</i>	Dr. Mary Jo Koroly Director Center for Precollegiate Education and Training	
<i>Congratulations</i>	Words of Encouragement and Congratulations Dr. Kati Migliaccio Dean College of Agricultural and Life Sciences	
<i>Award Ceremony</i>	Danae Perry Florida STEM Symposium Director Center for Precollegiate Education and Training	



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# Competitive Speaker Schedule

**Speaker Schedule – Be in Rooms by 9:10**

**10 Minute Break at 10:15**

### Research Group 1

**Room 2335**

9:15 AM	Mia Levin	Pine Crest School
9:35 AM	Camila Galicia	American Heritage School – Broward
9:55 AM	Aman Agrawal	Pine Crest School
<b>10:15 AM</b>	<b>Break</b>	<b>10 Minute Break</b>
10:25 AM	Hannah Ning	Pine Crest School
10:45 AM	Jack Greenwell	Sarasota High School
11:05 AM	Lilia Shalaurov	American Heritage School – Palm Beach

### Research Group 2

**Room 2340**

9:15 AM	Kasey Moore	American Heritage School - Palm Beach
9:35 AM	Amaury Castillo-Acevedo	Sarasota High School
9:55 AM	Vid Yash	American Heritage School – Broward
<b>10:15 AM</b>	<b>Break</b>	<b>10 Minute Break</b>
10:25 AM	Fiza Syed	American Heritage School – Broward
10:45 AM	Moitri Santra	Oviedo High School
11:05 AM	Nicholas Kwok	American Heritage School – Broward

### Research Group 3

**Room 2355**

9:15 AM	Shihan Zhang	American Heritage School – Broward
9:35 AM	Matteo Cudic	Spanish River Community High School
9:55 AM	Tristan Linander	Sarasota High School
<b>10:15 AM</b>	<b>Break</b>	<b>10 Minute Break</b>
10:25 AM	Cairo Ortiz	Florida Unschoolers
10:45 AM	Aishwarya Deshpande	American Heritage School - Palm Beach
11:05 AM	Brianna Liu	Spanish River Community High School

### Research Group 4

**Room 2365**

9:15 AM	Koray Abramson	Pine Crest School
9:35 AM	Aditya Kumar	Pine Crest School
9:55 AM	Siyuan Du	American Heritage School - Palm Beach
<b>10:15 AM</b>	<b>Break</b>	<b>10 Minute Break</b>
10:25 AM	Emma Tan	Lake Highland Preparatory School
10:45 AM	Benjamin Chen	Pine Crest School
11:05 AM	Maya Todorov	Pine Crest School



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### Noncompetitive speaker schedule:

	<b>Time</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>School</b>
<b>2335</b>	1:20	Ella Cardell	Sarasota High School
	1:30	Ishani Chanda	Oviedo High School
	1:40	Victoria Chang	Pine Crest School
	1:50	Erika Diaz-Padua	Pine Crest School
	2:00	Hammad Elahi	Lake Highland Preparatory School
	2:10	Max Farber	Pine Crest School
	2:20	John-Paul Galanis	Sarasota High School
	2:30	Marie Garcia	Lake Highland Preparatory School
	2:40	Gracie Grewal	Sarasota High School
	2:50	Zachary Harshman	Sarasota High School
	3:00	Selby Kirschner	Sarasota High School
	3:10	Evan Rhine	Pine Crest School

	<b>Time</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>School</b>
<b>2340</b>	1:20	Kai Cortadellas	Pine Crest School
	1:30	Emma Lally	Sarasota High School
	1:40	Annika LaRose	Sarasota High School
	1:50	Jake Margaryan	Pine Crest School
	2:00	Mikaella Mishiev	American Heritage Schools Broward
	2:10	Roshan Mohip	Pine Crest School
	2:20	Lucia Moretta	Sarasota High School
	2:30	Sriram Muppala	Lake Highland Preparatory School
	2:40	Adam Tobel	Pine Crest School
	2:50	Kaitlyn Weatherall	Pine Crest School
	3:00	Lily Wicks	Sarasota High School

	<b>Time</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>School</b>
<b>2355</b>	1:20	Jackson Barideaux	Pine Crest School
	1:30	Zach Chang	Lake Highland Preparatory School
	1:40	Morgan Cole	Pine Crest School
	1:50	Aanik Ghosh	Pine Crest School
	2:00	Anish Kaza	Pine Crest School
	2:10	Rafael Kazazian	Pine Crest School
	2:20	Leon Merchel Czubek	Pine Crest School
	2:30	Shriya Narasimhan	American Heritage Schools Broward
	2:40	Carrie Sullivan	Lake Highland Preparatory School
	2:50	Kobi Weitzman	Pine Crest School
	3:00	Alec Yang	Lake Highland Preparatory School
	3:10	Alaina Jamal	Pine Crest School



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	<b>Time</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>School</b>
<b>2360</b>	1:20	Kayan Amanat	Pine Crest School
	1:30	Anagha Iyer	American Heritage Schools Broward
	1:40	Ashley Banks	Pine Crest School
	1:50	Kamilla Castrillon	Sarasota High School
	2:00	Kenley Crowley	Sarasota High School
	2:10	Mohid Hassan	Lake Highland Preparatory School
	2:20	Dean Kathein	Pine Crest School
	2:30	Aakash Manaswi	Lake Highland Preparatory School
	2:40	Gabby Meinbach	Pine Crest School
	2:50	Maya Vivek	Lake Highland Preparatory School
	3:00	Imre Williams	Sarasota High School
	3:10	Jonathan Frank	Pine Crest School

	<b>Time</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>School</b>
<b>2365</b>	1:20	Eva Burkhardt	Pine Crest School
	1:30	Alejandra Santecchia	Sarasota High School
	1:40	Leila Raden	Lake Highland Preparatory School
	1:50	Olivia Youngs	Lake Highland Preparatory School
	2:00	Vibha Patil	Lake Highland Preparatory School
	2:10	Natalie Elbabaa	Lake Highland Preparatory School
	2:20	Eliana Berkun	Pine Crest School
	2:30	Vidhya Gupta	Pine Crest School
	2:40	Nicole Sibileva	Pine Crest School
	2:50	Hannah Ramos	Sarasota High School
	3:00	Aviv Dobzinski	Pine Crest School
	3:10	Aayan Mittal	Pine Crest School