



IEEE CIC 2026 · NextGen Program

JUNIORS AT CONFERENCE.

An interactive learning day built for high-school researchers
— no experience required.

Students in grades 9–12 spend a full day inside AI & robotics, cybersecurity & privacy, quantum computing, and space systems — working alongside the researchers and practitioners of IEEE CIC.

NOV 6 2026 | Silicon Valley **CA**

Embassy Suites by Hilton, Milpitas

Full Day Program <https://cic.ieee-cs.org/2026/nextgen-cs-juniors/>

THE PROGRAM

Research, up close.

NextGen: Juniors at Conference is IEEE CIC's K–12 engagement track, placing young learners directly in the room with working researchers. Over one day, students move through research talks, mentoring panels, and hands-on activities, present their own posters, and tour industry demos — no prerequisites, no lecture-hall pressure. Families are welcome to join the full experience.

WHAT STUDENTS EXPLORE

Multiple frontiers, one day.



AI & Robotics

See how machines sense, learn, and act — from robotic arms to the models that drive them.



Cybersecurity & Privacy

Explore how systems are defended — and how attackers try to break them.



Quantum Computing

Get a first look at qubits, superposition, and the machines built to use them.



Space & Critical Systems

Trace how critical systems are engineered to survive orbit and beyond.

SIGNATURE MOMENT · RECOGNITION



Best Poster / Presentation

Students showcase original projects at dedicated poster sessions throughout the day. Researchers and mentors circulate, ask questions, and the program closes with a Best Poster/Presentation award.

THE DAY

Mission trajectory.

■ Program ■ Expert talk ■ Hands-on activity ■ Break ■ Lunch ■ Career Panel ■ Awards

Tentative Program

8:00–9:00 AM	PROGRAM Registration, Networking Breakfast & Poster Setup
9:00–9:15 AM	PROGRAM Welcome Remarks & Program Overview
9:15–9:45 AM	EXPERT TALK AI and Robotics Speaker: Vishnu Pendyala · 20 min talk + 10 min Q&A
9:45–10:45 AM	HANDS-ON ACTIVITY AR/VR Interactive Demonstrations Leads: Julian Jarrett, Kim & a graduate student (TBD)
10:45–11:00 AM	BREAK Refreshment Break
11:00–11:30 AM	EXPERT TALK Quantum Computing, Quantum AI & Post-Quantum Cybersecurity Speaker: TBD · 20 min talk + 10 min Q&A
11:30 AM–12:00 PM	PROGRAM Student Poster Viewing, Networking & Lightning Pitches
12:00–1:00 PM	LUNCH Lunch Guest Speaker: TBD
1:00–1:45 PM	CAREER PANEL CISE Career Panel: What Is It Like to Be an Engineer or Scientist? Panelists: Julian Jarrett, TBD, TBD, TBD
1:45–2:00 PM	BREAK Refreshment Break
2:00–3:00 PM	HANDS-ON ACTIVITY Hands-On IoT Workshop Build-and-take-home project · Leads: Julian Jarrett, Kim & a graduate student (TBD)
3:00–3:40 PM	EXPERT TALK Space Technology & Critical Systems in the Age of AI Speaker: Mai Abdelhakim · 30 min talk + 10 min Q&A
3:40–4:20 PM	PROGRAM Student Poster Presentations & Judging
4:20–4:35 PM	AWARDS Best Poster Awards & Recognition
4:35–5:00 PM	PROGRAM Closing Remarks & Group Photo

Call for Posters: As part of **IEEE CIC NextGen: Juniors at Conference 2026**, we invite high school students to showcase their creativity, research, engineering projects, and STEM innovations in our Student Poster Competition – primarily in the areas covering AI and Robotics, Cybersecurity and Privacy, Space and Critical Systems, and Quantum Computing. Students may present science fair projects, engineering designs, software applications, research studies, or other work related to these themes. Posters should be displayed on a standard **tri-fold presentation board** (available from local office supply and retail stores). Students are responsible for creating their posters, printing their content, and attaching all materials to the board prior to the event. Posters will be evaluated by engineers, researchers, and industry professionals, with awards presented for outstanding projects. This is a unique opportunity to share your work, receive expert feedback, and engage with fellow STEM enthusiasts. During registration, you will have an option to choose if you are submitting a poster, where you can provide the title and abstract.



Scan the QR Code to register.

Or use [this link](#)

Organizing committee:

- Vishnu Pendyala, San Jose State University
- Upal Mahbub, Qualcomm
- Julian Jarrett, Lutron Electronics
- Mai Abdelhakim, University of Pittsburgh
- Irene Pazos Viana, IEEE Section Officer
- Danda Rawat, Howard University
- James Joshi, University of Pittsburgh
- Liou Tang, University of Pittsburgh

HS Student Volunteers:

- Tisha Joshi, Pine-Richland High School
- Kriti Pendyala, University Preparatory Academy



NextGen: Juniors at Conference

November 6, 2026 · Full day · IEEE CIC 2026



Grades 9–12 · No experience required

More details:

<https://cic.ieee-cs.org/2026/nextgen-cs-juniors/>