

AI & Cyber Innovation Week 2026: Safeguarding the CSRA Together

Theme: *Resilience, Readiness, and Regional Impact*

February 2-7, 2026

Location: USC Aiken Etherredge Center & Business & Education Building

Audience: Local government leaders, military/civilian cyber professionals, educators, students, private sector technologists, national lab researchers

Conference Objectives

- 1. Highlight USCA's leadership** in cybersecurity education and applied research.
- 2. Showcase collaboration** with Savannah River National Laboratory, SC National Guard and other key partners.
- 3. Facilitate regional networking** between academia – ATC/AU, military, national labs, industry, and K-12 educators.
- 4. Engage students** with workforce pathways and training opportunities.
- 5. Discuss regional threats**, critical infrastructure protection, cyber readiness, and AI integration.

Core Partners to Involve

- **USCA Center for Cyber Initiatives, Awareness & AI (CCIA-AI)** – Host/organizer
- **Savannah River National Laboratory (SRNL)** – Keynote, AI track, fireside panel
- **Savannah River Nuclear Solutions (SRNS)** – Showcase, Joint keynote
- **South Carolina National Guard (SCNG)** – Breakout, tabletop, joint keynote
- **Aiken Tech / Ruth Patrick / CATE programs** – K-12 pathways
- **SRSCRO / USCA Career Services** – Workforce development
- **??? Who are we missing ??? Will Williams/Aiken Chamber**



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Savannah River
NUCLEAR SOLUTIONSSM





Planning Timeline

Phase	Action	Deadline
Visioning	Confirm partners, venue, date	July 31
Programming	Finalize agenda, speakers	November 1
Marketing	Launch website, social media, flyers	<December 1
Execution	Final logistics, signage, volunteers	February 1
Event Day	Conference + Media Coverage	February 5
Post-Event	Debrief, survey, photo report	February 26



Welcome to Aiken's AI & Cyber Innovation Week 2026!

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From \$0.00

[Book a Spot](#)

Aiken AI & Cyber Innovation Week 2026

USC Aiken is proud to host its first-ever **AI & Cyber Innovation Week**— a six-day event bringing together students, professionals, educators, government, and industry leaders to explore the future of cybersecurity and artificial intelligence.

Throughout the week, participants will engage in:

- **Hands-on Training & Workshops** – Professional development in cybersecurity and AI.
- **Expert Seminars** – Thought-provoking talks from DOE/DOD and industry experts.
- **Community Engagement** – Public cyber awareness events and outreach.
- **Competitions** – Capture the Flag (CTF) challenges and student showcases.
- **Workforce Panels** – Insightful discussions on careers, skills, and opportunities in the AI and cyber fields.



Mark Your Calendars: February 2–7, 2026



<https://aiandcyberinnovationweek2026.sched.com/>

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SAVE THE DATE

University of South Carolina Aiken

2026 CYBER WEEK

Join Us For

- PROFESSIONAL TRAINING
- COMMUNITY CYBER EVENTS
- CAPTURE THE FLAG COMPETITION
- AI SEMINARS AND WORKSHOPS
- CYBER WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
- DOE/DOD SPEAKERS

February 2-7, 2026

CYBER WEEK 2026

February 2-7, 2026

BE PART OF THE LAUNCH

JOIN USC AIKEN FOR THE FIRST-EVER CYBER WEEK, A BOLD NEW TRADITION DESIGNED TO CONNECT STUDENTS, FACULTY, INDUSTRY PROFESSIONALS, AND NATIONAL SECURITY LEADERS IN BUILDING THE CYBER WORKFORCE OF TOMORROW

HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

- ◆ HANDS-ON TRAINING AND TECHNICAL WORKSHOPS
- ◆ CYBER COMPETITIONS LED BY THE CYBERPACERS TEAM
- ◆ STUDENT CAPSTONE AND INTERNSHIP PROJECT SHOWCASES
- ◆ WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PANELS ON DOE/DOD PIPELINES

📍 LOCATION: UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA AIKEN
📅 DATES: FEBRUARY 2-7, 2026
🌐 MORE INFO COMING SOON: USCA.EDU/CYBERWEEK
✉ CONTACT: CYBERWEEK@USCA.EDU

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SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

AI Sponsor - \$25,000

- Premier logo placement on ALL materials (digital, print, signage, program)
- Opportunity to address attendees and introduce the keynote speaker
- Feature in all pre and post event email communications
- Priority exhibit space/tables across campus
- Ten complimentary attendee registrations for full week access
- Recognition in all media outreach and press coverage

Quantum Sponsor - \$15,000

- Logo placement on all materials (digital, print, signage)
- Recognition from the podium during keynote session
- Feature in pre and post event communications
- Prime exhibit space/tables across campus
- Six complimentary attendee registrations
- Recognition in selected media coverage

Cyber Sponsor - \$10,000

- Logo placement on digital and print materials
- Tables opportunities across campus
- Recognition in pre-event communications
- Four complimentary attendee registrations

Data Sponsor - \$5,000

- Logo placement on digital and print materials
- Recognition on Cyber Week event website
- Two complimentary attendee registrations

Code Sponsor - \$2,500

- Logo placement on digital and print materials
- Recognition on Cyber Week event website
- Two complimentary attendee registrations

Exhibitor - \$500

- Exhibitor table in a high-traffic conference location for direct engagement with attendees
- Digital brand visibility on conference materials
- One complimentary attendee registration

Attendee - \$50/Day

- Full access to PacerCon sessions and interactive cyber demos
- Official Cyber Week swag kit
- Boxed lunch and refreshments provided Friday & Saturday

Sponsorships directly invest in student scholarships, community outreach and the next generation of future-ready cybersecurity and AI professionals. Join us to fuel innovation, opportunity, and impact across the CSRA and beyond.



Sponsorship Inquiries



Contact:
Tom.Scott@usca.edu





The AI & Cyber Innovation Week at USC Aiken is a signature event celebrating the future of technology, innovation and workforce development in artificial intelligence and cybersecurity. This confluence of public and private sector partners, industry leaders, faculty and students will explore emerging technologies through interactive exhibits, competitions, and hands-on learning experiences.

Sponsorship Level Benefits (click to expand)

- ▶ AI Sponsor – \$25,000
- ▶ Quantum Sponsor – \$15,000
- ▶ Cyber Sponsor – \$10,000

Support USC Aiken's Cyber Week

Give to the USC Aiken College of Sciences and Engineering Program Enhancement Fund

Gift Amount:

AI SPONSOR - \$25,0000
QUANTUM SPONSOR - \$15,000
CYBER SPONSOR - \$10,000
DATA SPONSOR - \$5,000
CODE SPONSOR - \$2,500
EXHIBITOR - \$500
ATTENDEE - \$50
OTHER

Gift Details

Please provide any special instructions for your specified gift

150 characters left

Total: \$0.00

<https://giving.usca.edu/sfp/coe/cyber-week>

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AI & CYBER INNOVATION WEEK 2026 -- February 2-7, 2026

Time	Day						
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	2-Feb	3-Feb	4-Feb	4-Feb	5-Feb	6-Feb	7-Feb
	<i>Network Traffic Analysis - Aiken Technical College</i>			<i>Community Cyber</i>	<i>EcoSystem Cyber</i>	<i>PacerCON</i>	<i>PacerCON</i>
8:00	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Welcome/Intro	Welcome/Intro		Welcome/Intro
9:00				Keynote: SC AI Director	Keynote: National		Keynote
10:00				Panel	Energy Panel: Antares, Fluor, Dominion, SC Nexus, Aiken Elec Co-Op, RR		Panel
11:00				Speaker1: Tim Swick, CSTA AI Fellow	Posters		Sessions
12:00				Lunch	Lunch/Keynote: Sandia CISO Chrisma Jackson	Lunch	Lunch
13:00				Breakout Session	Defense Panel: SCNG, NNSA, ARCYBER, NSD	Welcome/Intro	Sessions
14:00				Breakout Session	Science Panel: SRNL, SCRA, RTIC	Keynote	Sessions
15:00				Breakout Session	Education Panel: USCA, AU, ATC, SMC?	Sessions	Sessions
16:00				Breakout Session	Closing Keynote: Les Eisner	Sessions	Sessions

16 Hour Drone Training

Southern Fried Security
Cybersecurity in the Rural South

Network Traffic Analysis

About Course

This 24-hour course will train students to conduct traffic analysis on their internal networks by doing a “deep-dive” into network traffic analysis using Wireshark and other tools to identify regular and anomalous network traffic. It will teach techniques necessary to identify network attacks by context and type.

You will be introduced to a wide variety of network traffic analysis information and methods. This course is delivered in a mobile training lab, using laptops that are preconfigured with hands-on exercises that immerse students in real-world examples.

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Target Audience

👤 [Information Technology](#)

Technical personnel and technical managers within the public and private sectors affiliated with an agency or organization considered as part of the nation's critical infrastructure.

February 4, 2026 -- Wednesday – Community Cyber Day

Focus Areas	Lead
Workforce Development	USCA Career Services/Madalyn Brantley
K-12/STEM	Dr. Gary Senn
Higher Ed	USCA Faculty
AI in the Classroom	Ellis Reeves/Dr. Tim Swick
Small Business/Community	Barry Hudson/Brent Hoover
Robotics	Ambrose Wiering/Chris Cortez
Drones	Christopher Williams
Competitions	Dr. Tom Clark/Jeff Sweeney/Joe Sanchez

Wednesday						
4-Feb						
Etherredge Center		Callen Center	RPSEC	Etherredge?	Penland 106	SAC Gym
Community Cyber-Educators/Industry						
8:00	Welcome/Intro: Heimmermann/Mahan/Murphy	 				
9:00	Keynote: SC AI Director Rich Heimann					
10:00	Panel: Jim Tunison, Jamie DeMent, Will Williams					
11:00	Speaker1: Tim Swick, CSTA AI Fellow					
12:00	Lunch	<i>AI in the Classroom</i>	<i>STEM Innovation</i>	<i>Robotics</i>	<i>Innovation Workforce</i>	<i>Drone Technology</i>
13:00	Breakout Session	Presentation	Presentation	Presentation	Presentation	Presentation
14:00	Breakout Session	Panel	Panel	Panel	Panel	Panel
15:00	Breakout Session	Workshop	Workshop	Workshop	Workshop	Workshop
16:00	Wrapup-Door Prizes	Wrapup	Wrapup	Wrapup	Wrapup	Wrapup
17:00	Student Focused Activity					
18:00	Student Focused Activity					

Thursday 5-Feb



	EcoSystem Cyber-Industry/Academia/Government/Military
8:00	Welcome/Intro: Chancellor Heimmermann/Johnny Green/Gen Janovik
9:00	Opening Keynote: META/Dr. Roman Yampolskiy
10:00	Energy Panel: Antares , Fluor, Dominion, SC Nexus , Aiken Elec Co-Op, RR
11:00	Workforce Panel: SRNS, SRSCRO, USCA , Bridgestone, Steelgate
12:00	Lunch/Keynote: Sandia CISO Chrisma Jackson
13:00	Defense Panel: SCNG , NNSA, ARCYBER , NIWC , NSA-G
14:00	Science Panel: SRNL , SCRA , RTIC , USCA , TAC
15:00	Education Panel: USCA , AU , GCC , ATC , SMC-Hamilton
16:00	Closing Keynote: Les Eisner
17:00	Reception/Student Poster Session
18:00	Activity?



CyberStrike LIGHTS OUT



Practical training for energy sector owners and operators

The CyberStrike LIGHTS OUT training workshop was designed to enhance the ability of energy sector owners and operators to prepare for a cyber incident impacting industrial control systems. This training offers a hands-on, simulated demonstration of a cyberattack, drawing from elements of the 2015 and 2016 cyber incidents in Ukraine.

This workshop is offered as a virtual event either with live or self-guided online instruction. Participants are guided through a series of exercises that challenge them to defend equipment they routinely encounter within their industrial control systems against a cyberattack. Specifically, participants will achieve the following course objectives:

1. Describe the 2015 and 2016 Ukraine cyber events
2. Reconstruct a cyber event using the cyber Kill Chain
3. Discuss guidance and mitigation concepts
4. Describe the importance of prevention

Hands-on Exercises

The CyberStrike LIGHTS OUT training features live exercises using real equipment and scenarios routinely experienced by utility owners and operators:

- Open-Source Intelligence
- Denial-of-Service
- Passive Machine-in-the-Middle Attack
- Firmware Analysis
- Controlling the Human-Machine Interface
- Bypassing the Human-Machine Interface
- Active Machine-in-the-Middle Attack
- Defender Mitigations







Tools Used During Workshop

- Kali Linux
- Metasploit
- Nmap
- VNC Viewer
- Ettercap
- Wireshark
- Binwalk
- Cabextract



Target Audience

This CyberStrike training is tailored to energy sector owner and operator staff who work in the following areas:

-  Control room operation
-  Technology personnel
-  Critical infrastructure protection
-  Focused technical staff
-  Energy Management System (EMS) support
-  Operating personnel

Continuing Education Units (CEU)

CyberStrike is accredited to issue IACET Continuing Education Units (CEU). Trainees will be granted 0.8 CEU upon completion of the LIGHTS OUT training.

Steering Committee Members

First	Last	Organization
Henry	Bryant	SRNS
Ali	Alsabeh	USCA
Hala	Strohmeier-Berry	USCA
Colin	Chin	SRNL
Steve	Weldon	SRNL
James	Foley	Private Sector
Todd	Shealy	SCNG
Corey	Feraldi	USCA
Gary	Senn	USCA
Madalyn	Brantley	SRSCRO
Barry	Hudson	Private Sector
Linda	Riedel	SCNG
Chris	Clark	USCA
Lucy	Tserteos	USCA Student
Ellis	Reeves	USCA
Madalyn	Brantley	SRSCRO
Dan	Elwell	USCA
Whitney	Goodwin	Aiken Chamber
Stacy	Sechrist	USCA

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Key Next Steps

- ~~1. Finalize identifying National Level Keynotes~~ in cybersecurity, energy, AI, research.
- ~~2. Finish Visioning/Planning:~~ USCA has committed resources and energy; help us determine what makes this a successful week.
- 3. Identify Areas of Need/Assign:** Agenda, Logistics, Marketing etc means there are many moving parts which will require many hands helping and leaders.
- 4. Meeting Cadence:** Monthly Aug-Oct; Bi-Weekly Nov-Dec; Weekly January
- 5. Engage:** We will provide you materials to share, please help communicate.

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Meeting Dates-Thursdays at 1pm

~~October 23-10am/1pm~~

~~November 6~~

November 20

December 4

December 18

January 8

January 15

January 22

January 29

ITS HERE...

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