

What to Expect: Your Workshop Weekend

2026 PATHS Workshop | Friday, September 18 – Saturday, September 19, 2026

Welcome to the 2026 PATHS Workshop! This guide will help you prepare for your workshop weekend. Please review it before you travel, and feel free to reach out to the PATHS program team with any questions or support you may need.

Before You Depart

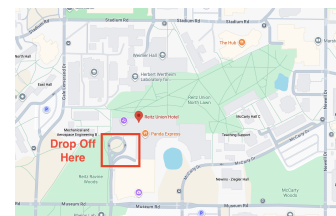
What to Bring

- Comfortable clothing for a full day of activities both days. Casual attire is recommended.
- A wallet with valid photo ID (needed for check-in and for campus building access).
- A laptop or tablet, if you have one, for the resume workshop and course registration sessions.
- Any personal sensory or comfort items you find helpful - a dedicated sensory room is available on-site both days.
- A printed or digital copy of your current resume, if available, for the resume workshop and peer evaluation session.

Arriving in Gainesville

If You're Flying Into Gainesville Regional Airport (GNV)

- Once you arrive into Gainesville Regional Airport (GNV), exit the secure area of the terminal and collect any checked baggage you may have from the carousel.
- Please use the Uber/Lyft app on your phone to call a ride and set the destination as the Reitz Union Hotel (655 Reitz Union Drive, Gainesville, FL 32611). Ensure your destination drop-off point is set as the roundabout towards the Southwest side of the Reitz Union Hotel.
- Make sure to forward the email containing your Uber/Lyft receipt to erik.ruszkowski@ufl.edu after your ride concludes!
- Once you have arrived, walk inside the building and check-in at the hotel front desk.

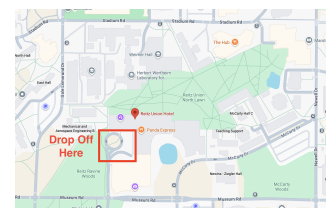


If You're Flying Into Orlando International Airport (MCO)

- Once you arrive at the Orlando International Airport (MCO), exit the secure area of the terminal and collect any checked baggage you may have from the carousel. Afterward, proceed to the appropriate rental car desk to collect your rental car.

If You're Driving From Out of Town

- If you are driving your own vehicle or a rental car and staying at the Reitz Union Hotel, please set your destination as the Reitz Union Hotel (655 Reitz Union Drive, Gainesville, FL 32611). Ensure your destination point is set as the roundabout towards the Southwest side of the Reitz Union Hotel.
- There will be 15-minute parking available for your vehicle. Walk inside the double-doors and check-in at the hotel front desk. They will provide you with a parking pass and instructions where to leave your vehicle.
- **Make sure to save all your gas receipts.** It is recommended to take a photo of the receipt each time you stop for gas.

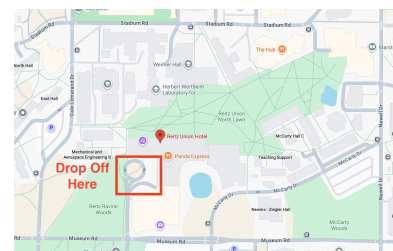


Where You're Staying (If Arriving From Out of Town)

- You will be staying at the [Reitz Union Hotel](#), located on the University of Florida campus. Rooms have been reserved for all confirmed participants and their companion(s), if applicable. The Reitz Union offers several convenient dining options, including cafés, restaurants, and grab-and-go locations, all within the building or nearby on campus.
- Check-in and check-out dates/times will be confirmed with you individually - please double check your itinerary and let the team know if your travel dates change.

If You're Commuting From Within Gainesville

- The PATHS Workshop will be held at the Reitz Student Union (655 Reitz Union Drive, Gainesville, FL 32611). Any costs associated with your transportation to the Reitz are eligible to be reimbursed by the PATHS program.
- If you prefer to arrive via car and will be parking on-campus**, please set your destination as the Reitz Union Hotel (655 Reitz Union Drive, Gainesville, FL 32611). Ensure your destination point is set as the roundabout towards the Southwest side of the Reitz Union Hotel. There will be 15-minute parking for your vehicle. Walk inside the double-doors and pick up a parking pass from Erik Ruszkowski between 7:30 - 8:30 am on Friday, September 18th. Please make a note of your mileage, and at the end of the conference send an email to erik.ruszkowski@ufl.edu with the number of miles driven to be reimbursed.
- If you prefer to arrive via car and will be dropped off**, please make a note of your mileage, and at the end of the conference send an email to erik.ruszkowski@ufl.edu with the number of miles driven to be reimbursed.
- If you prefer to arrive via Uber/Lyft**, please call a ride on your phone and set the destination as the Reitz Union (655 Reitz Union Drive, Gainesville, FL 32611). Ensure your destination drop-off point is set as the roundabout towards the Southwest side of the building. Make sure to forward the email containing your Uber/Lyft receipt to erik.ruszkowski@ufl.edu after your ride concludes!
- If you prefer to arrive via RTS Bus and there is a fare associated with your travel**, please forward an image with your receipt to erik.ruszkowski@ufl.edu



Friday, September 18 — Day One

Meals: Breakfast, snacks, and lunch are provided (vegan/vegetarian options included).

Time	Room	Activity
8:00 AM – 9:00 AM	Reitz G310	Breakfast
9:00 AM – 9:30 AM	Reitz G310	Welcome + Pre-Workshop Survey
9:30 AM – 10:15 AM	Reitz G310	Introduction - Dr. Hyo Kang & Dr. Nigel Newbutt
10:15 AM – 10:30 AM		Break
10:30 AM – 11:00 AM	Reitz G310	Lecture: <i>Jobs & Trends in Semiconductors</i> - Dr. Navid Asadi
11:15 AM – 11:15 AM		Break
11:15 AM – 11:45 AM	Reitz G310	Lecture: <i>Employment Among the Autistic Population</i> - Dr. Ann-Marie Orlando
11:45 AM – 12:30 PM		Lunch
12:30 PM – 1:15 PM	Malachowsky Hall 1st Floor	SCAN Lab Tour - Antika Roy
1:15 PM – 1:30 PM		Break
1:30 PM – 2:00 PM	Reitz G310	Lecture: <i>Resume Building</i> - Himanandhan Reddy Kottur
2:00 PM – 5:00 PM	Reitz G310	Breakout Session 1: <i>Strength-based Resume workshop</i>
2:00 PM – 5:00 PM	Reitz G315	Breakout Session 2: <i>Virtual Reality Demo</i>
2:00 PM – 5:00 PM	Reitz G321	Breakout Session 3: <i>Course Registration</i>

Breakout sessions run in three back-to-back time slots (2:00-3:00 PM, 3:00-4:00 PM, and 4:00-5:00 PM) so everyone gets a turn at each session over the course of the afternoon. The PATHS team will let you know your assigned slots.

Saturday, September 19 — Day Two

Meals: Breakfast, snacks, and lunch are provided (vegan/vegetarian options included).

Time	Room	Activity
8:00 AM – 9:00 AM	Reitz 3315	Breakfast
9:00 AM – 9:45 AM	Reitz 3315	Panel Discussion
9:45 AM – 10:00 AM		Break
10:00 AM – 10:45 AM	Reitz 3315	Lecture: <i>Job Searching Strategies in the Field</i> - Himanandhan Reddy Kottur
10:45 AM – 11:00 AM		Break
11:00 AM – 12:00 PM	Reitz 3315	Resume Peer Evaluation
12:00 PM – 12:30 PM	Reitz 3315	Lunch + Post-Workshop Survey
12:30 PM – 1:00 PM	Reitz 3315	Meet with Mentors
1:00 PM – 2:00 PM	Reitz 3315	Optional Focus-Group Interview

Where Things Happen On Campus

- Workshop sessions will mostly take place in a large conference room and two breakout rooms in the Reitz Union.
- Signage (directional signs and a check-in sign) will be posted to help you find your way between rooms.

A campus map will be included in your printed program.

Who You'll Meet

Program Team

- Program leads and staff will be on-site throughout both days to help with logistics, questions, and accommodations.

Industry Mentors

- You'll have the chance to meet and connect with industry mentors during the program, including professionals from companies such as Micron Technology, AMD, GlobalFoundries, Apple, and McKinsey.
- Mentors will join for the Saturday lunch "Meet with Mentors" session, and some may also be involved in the Friday or Saturday panel and resume sessions.

What You'll Receive

- A printed program schedule with room locations, food options, and contact information.
- A name card for check-in and networking.
- Program materials and UF swag
- A VR Headset for use during the workshop - please ensure you have a Meta ID/account set up to use the headsets

Food & Dietary Needs

- Breakfast, snacks, and lunch are provided on both days.
- Vegetarian and vegan options will be available at every meal - please let the program team know in advance about any dietary restrictions or allergies.

Friday, September 18 — Day One

Breakfast

Traditional Breakfast Buffet

- Scrambled cage-free eggs, served with hot sauce and ketchup
- Fluffy buttermilk pancakes served with butter and maple syrup
- Pork breakfast sausage and plant-based sausage
- Seasoned breakfast potatoes, served with ketchup
- Seasonal fruit display
- Assorted freshly baked muffins and bagels, served with butter and cream cheese

Beverages

- Iced Water

Lunch

Artisan Boxed Lunches

Each boxed lunch includes whole fruit, a side salad, and a freshly baked cookie.

- Choice of a Classic Italian Sandwich (pepperoni, capicola, salami, and provolone cheese with balsamic), an Avocado, Tomato & Lettuce Sandwich, or a Turkey, Bacon & Ranch Wrap (with pepper jack cheese and served with ranch dressing).
- Side of house-made potato chips with garlic herb dip

Beverages

- Sweetened iced tea, lemonade, assorted soft drinks, and iced water

Afternoon Snack

Grazing Station

Popcorn Trio

- Choice of traditional buttered popcorn, caramel sea salt popcorn, and parmesan garlic popcorn

Harvest Vegetable Station

- Roasted and raw seasonal vegetables
- House ranch dressing
- Classic hummus and roasted red pepper hummus
- Fried pita bread triangles
- Grapes and berries

Grab-and-Go Bars

- Individually wrapped granola bars

Saturday, September 19 — Day Two

Breakfast

Traditional Breakfast Buffet

- Scrambled cage-free eggs, served with hot sauce and ketchup
- Savory cinnamon French toast served with butter and maple syrup
- Applewood smoked bacon and plant-based sausage
- Seasoned breakfast potatoes, served with ketchup
- Seasonal fruit display
- Assorted freshly baked muffins and bagels, served with butter and cream cheese

Beverages

- Iced Water

Lunch

Artisan Boxed Lunches

Each boxed lunch includes whole fruit, Miss Vickie's sea salt kettle chips, and a freshly baked brownie.

- Choice of a Mediterranean Grilled Chicken Sandwich (with sun-dried tomato and hummus), a Turkey Cheddar & Sriracha Sandwich (with lettuce and tomato, served with spicy aioli), or a Fall Power Salad (arugula, baby spinach, and kale with purple cabbage, roasted turmeric cauliflower, yams, and pepitas, served with balsamic vinaigrette).

Beverages

- Sweetened iced tea, lemonade, assorted soft drinks, and iced water

Departure

If You're Flying From Gainesville Regional Airport (GNV)

- Before leaving the Reitz Union Hotel, please make sure you have collected all personal belongings and returned any required hotel keys or materials.
- When you are ready to head to the airport (we recommend leaving at least 2 hours before your flight), use the Uber/Lyft app on your phone to request a ride to Gainesville Regional Airport. After your ride concludes, please forward the email containing your Uber/Lyft receipt to erik.ruszkowski@ufl.edu for reimbursement.

If You're Flying From Orlando International Airport (MCO)

- Before leaving the Reitz Union Hotel, please make sure you have collected all personal belongings and returned any required hotel keys or materials.
- We recommend departing for the airport at least 4 hours before your flight. Please return your rental vehicle to the appropriate rental car facility at Orlando International Airport. Allow sufficient time to return the vehicle, check in for your flight, and proceed through airport security.
- **Make sure to save all your gas receipts.** Please email your gas receipts to erik.ruszkowski@ufl.edu in one email once you have returned home. Please also send any other receipts related to your rental car or transportation.

If You're Driving Home and Live Out of Town

- Please make sure you have collected all belongings and follow the Reitz Union Hotel's instructions regarding your parking pass before departing.
- **Make sure to save all your gas receipts.** Please email your gas receipts to erik.ruszkowski@ufl.edu in one email once you have returned home.

If You're Driving Home and Live in Gainesville

- **If you are driving and parked on campus**, please follow the parking instructions provided when you received your parking pass and return the pass, if necessary. Make sure to email to erik.ruszkowski@ufl.edu with the number of miles driven to be reimbursed.
- **If you were dropped off**, email to erik.ruszkowski@ufl.edu with the number of miles driven to be reimbursed.
- **If you are using Uber/Lyft**, please forward each of your ride receipts to erik.ruszkowski@ufl.edu after your ride concludes to be reimbursed.
- **If you are using RTS**, please forward an image of your receipt to erik.ruszkowski@ufl.edu if there is a fare associated with your trip to be reimbursed.

Questions Before or During the Workshop?

Reach out to the program team any time - before you travel, during check-in, or at any point over the weekend. We're here to help make sure your visit is comfortable and goes smoothly, so please don't hesitate to ask about accommodations, schedule changes, or anything else you need.

Erik Ruszkowski - Main Point of Contact - (908) 210-2439 - erik.ruszkowski@ufl.edu

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Dr. Nigel - (352) 740 9045 - nigel.newbutt@coe.ufl.edu