

Conference Experience Report: APS Global Denver 2026
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From March 15 to March 20, 2026, I had the opportunity to attend and present my research at the APS Global Denver 2026 conference. As a recipient of the Shackouls Honors Travel Award, this experience was instrumental in my development as a physicist, allowing me to engage with the global scientific community and represent Mississippi State University on an international stage.

The primary focus of my attendance was the presentation of my current research. Sharing my findings with a specialized audience allowed me to receive direct feedback from experts in the field. These technical discussions provided a level of academic rigor and scrutiny that is difficult to replicate in a classroom setting, significantly enhancing my ability to communicate complex concepts and defend my methodology.

Beyond my own presentation, the conference offered a rare glimpse into the highest levels of scientific achievement. I attended several keynote sessions, most notably the lectures provided by the 2025 Nobel Laureates. Hearing these individuals discuss their path to discovery and their vision for the future of physics was profoundly inspiring. Additionally, I attended a presentation by Dr. John Preskill from Caltech. His insights into quantum science and the evolving landscape of theoretical research provided a valuable perspective that directly aligns with my interest in precision measurements and quantum metrology.

My time in Denver was also dedicated to professional development and planning for my future academic career. I spent significant time at the career and graduate school fair, where I had the chance to meet with representatives from several world-class institutions and organizations. These included IQM, Princeton University, the University of Chicago, and the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. These conversations were vital for understanding the nuances of different doctoral programs and establishing connections that will be essential as I begin my graduate school applications this coming year.

In conclusion, my participation in APS Global Denver 2026 was a transformative experience that bridged the gap between undergraduate study and professional research. The exposure to groundbreaking physics and the opportunity to network with leading researchers have solidified my commitment to pursuing a Ph.D. in physics. I am sincerely grateful to the Shackouls Honors Office of Undergraduate Research for providing the support necessary to take part in this pivotal moment of my academic career.