



Gulf Coast BEST Partnership Proposal 2026

BTE Connect, Inc.



Dear Community Partner,

We are thrilled to announce BEST Robotics is back!

BEST (Boosting Engineering, Science, and Technology) launched in our community in 2001 and for 20 years grew into a powerful workforce development program serving students, schools and industry partners. Through hands-on robotics competitions and real-world engineering challenges, BEST inspired thousands of students to explore careers in engineering, science and technology.

Like many programs, the pandemic forced us to pause. However, the need for STEM education, innovation and workforce development has never been greater. In response to the strong interest and encouragement from schools, higher education institutions and industry leaders, we are excited to relaunch under a new hub name: **Gulf Coast BEST**.

This exciting new chapter will operate under **BTE Connect**, a newly established 501(c)(3) organization connecting Business To Education. BTE Connect strengthens the bridge between industry and the classroom, ensuring students gain meaningful exposure to real-world skills and career pathways.

As in the past, BEST remains completely **free** to all participating schools. Because of this commitment, the program depends on the support of business and industry partners who are willing to invest in their future workforce. Your financial support and volunteer involvement are essential to making this program successful and sustainable.

Your financial support will directly impact:

- Re-establishment of all facets of a newly formed hub
- Workforce readiness and career awareness for 12-15 Gulf Coast schools
- Industry mentorship and real-world skill development
- Long-term talent pipeline growth in the region

This is more than sponsorship. It is a strategic investment in our community's future workforce.

We respectfully ask you to partner with Gulf Coast BEST through financial support, employee volunteers and mentoring. Together, we can equip students with the skills, confidence and inspiration they need to succeed and ensure our industries have the talent they require.

BEST Regards,
Mike Fletcher
President
BTE Connect, Inc.

With gratitude,
Robin R. Fenton
Hub Director
Gulf Coast BEST

ALL ABOUT BEST!

WHO: Gulf Coast BEST Robotics Program

WHEN: April 2026 – December 2026

WHERE: Mobile, Alabama



WHEN: The 2026 events are as follows...

- *Spring Hub Volunteer/Leadership Training – Dallas, Texas – April (Mandatory for hub to send 1-4 volunteers)*
- *Summer Workshops for teachers, students and volunteers*
 - *Coding and Programming for the BEST Robot Controller*
 - *BEST New Teacher/Mentor Workshop*
 - *CAD Design Summer Workshop*
 - *BEST Skills Workshops for Students*
- *BEST Industry Night – August 2026 – Davidson High School*
- *BEST Kick Off Day – September 12th – Davidson High School*
- *BEST Practice Day – October 31st – Location TBD*
- *BEST Game Day – November 7th – Davidson High School*
- *South's BEST Regional Championship – December – Huntsville, AL*

AUDIENCE: The prior success of Jubilee BEST impacted more than 1,300 students annually, engaging approximately 100 teachers and 375 industry mentors and volunteers each year.

Game Day regularly attracted more than 5,000 spectators, including participating students' families, school supporters such as bands, cheerleaders and mascots, as well as business leaders and community stakeholders. The event became a true community celebration of STEM and workforce development.

As we relaunch the program under its new name, **Gulf Coast BEST**, schools that have continued participating at other hubs across the state will be invited to return. Our goal is to introduce new schools to training opportunities, engage students in Game Day, and build the skills necessary for full competition participation by 2027.

We anticipate 12–15 schools participating in 2026, with the event hosted at Davidson High School. In 2027, the plan is to expand the hub to more than 25 teams and return to the Mitchell Center on the University of South Alabama campus — restoring the large-scale regional competition experience that previously defined BEST in our community.

This phased relaunch ensures strong growth, sustainable participation, and long-term impact for students, schools and industry partners across the Gulf Coast region.

Gulf Coast BEST



Diamond - \$10,000 +

- Allows 4 or more schools to participate
- Opportunity to address the audience and/or present a video on Game Day
- Award named for sponsor
- VIP Game Day accommodations, including Hospitality Room
- Corporate logo on all promotional items
- 6 passes to VIP/Teacher Luncheon

Platinum - \$5000+

- Allows 2 or more schools to participate
- Award named for sponsor
- VIP Game Day accommodations, including Hospitality Room
- Corporate logo on all promotional items
- 4 passes to VIP/Teacher Luncheon

Gold - \$2500+

- Allows 1 school to participate
- 2 passes to VIP/Teacher Luncheon
- Corporate logo on Game Day t-shirts and selected promotional items
- 2 passes for Game Day Hospitality Room

Silver - \$1000+

- Contributes to schools participating
- Corporate logo on Game Day t-shirts and selected promotional items

BEST Friend – \$100 - \$999

- Contributes to schools participating in BEST Robotics
- Recognition on Game Day

In-Kind Sponsor

- Recognition and special thanks on Game Day
- Additional recognition depending on level of donation.



BTE Connect, Inc.
3326 Benyard Drive
Mobile, AL 36619
(251) 379-1034



Partnership Opportunity 2026

Company or Individual Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

Amount of Contribution: _____

In-kind Donation: (please list details): _____

To become a sponsor:

Please mail check to:

BTE Connect, Inc.
3326 Benyard Drive
Mobile, AL 36619

BTE Connect, Inc. Tax ID #41-3922738

W-9 provided upon request.

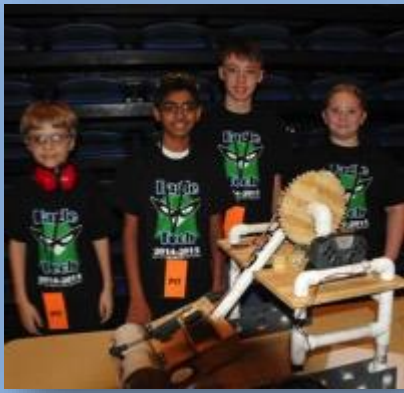
Banking details provided upon request for ACH payment.

BTE Connect, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

Gulf Coast BEST is one of the STEM and workforce development programs hosted by BTE Connect.



*Thank you for your generous support for
Gulf Coast BEST Robotics!*



Thank You!

