Qiskit Fall Fest 2025 Benefits Report for University and Club (Sponsored Event)

Benefits for the University

Direct Benefits

1. **Global Spotlight on Innovation**
   - Going Sponsored means our university gets highlighted on the Qiskit Fall Fest website and at the closing ceremony, joining 9,000+ participants from last year. It's a chance to show off our QC leadership and put us on the global stage!
2. **Premium IBM Resources**
   - With Sponsored status, we'll get three new IBM notebooks, four hackathon packages, and a guaranteed IBM Quantum Employee Speaker. This enriches our academic tools and gives students access to real life quantum computers.
3. **Bigger Student Turnout**
   - Targeting 50–100 STEM students, the workshop and mini-hackathon will draw a crowd with the promise of IBM certificates and exclusive swag.
4. **Faculty and Research Boost**
   - The guaranteed IBM speaker and professor talks could kickstart research collaborations.

Indirect Benefits

1. **Stronger Alumni Pride**
   - Alumni seeing our university host a high-profile event might step up with donations or mentorship. It's a proud moment that could fund future projects.
2. **Community Leadership**
   - Celebrating a century of quantum computing will inspire our local area, positioning our university as a hub for tech progress. It's a story that'll spread far and wide.

Benefits for the Club

Direct Benefits

1. **Club Growth and Prestige**
   - Leading a Sponsored Event will pull in new members like a magnet, and our club's name will shine on the Qiskit site. Sayef vaia's logistics skills will make us the talk of the

town!

2. **Skill-Building Opportunities**
   - Our team will gain event planning, coding, and promo skills. Attending the mandatory 12+ IBM seminars (Tuesdays–Thursdays, September) will also deepen our QC expertise, earning us Credly badges.

3. **Exclusive Swag and Recognition**
   - We'll distribute 49 swag items to winners and team, plus help hand out certificates. This boosts our resumes and gives us bragging rights!

4. **MIT iQuHACK Edge**
   - The Day 4 mini-hackathon will let us pick 4–6 top performers for MIT iQuHACK 2026. Leading this team will cement our club as a QC leader and open doors to industry networking.

Indirect Benefits

1. **Tighter University Bonds**
   - Working with Sayef vaia to book the theatre room and secure approvals will strengthen our ties with faculty and admin. We'll be the club they turn to next time!

2. **Leadership Growth**
   - Running a 4-day Sponsored Event with talks and workshops will teach us to lead big projects. That confidence will shine in future club ventures.

3. **Networking Goldmine**
   - Chatting with IBM speakers, professors, and participants could lead to internships or mentorships. A quick hello might turn into a career boost!

Future Benefits and Industry Collaboration

- **Catching Industry Eyes**:
  A successful Sponsored Event, backed by IBM's guaranteed speakers, exclusive swag, and global visibility (think 9,000+ participants from last year), will put our university and club on the radar of top quantum players. We're talking about companies like the Institute for Quantum Computing (IQC) at the University of Waterloo, IonQ with its cutting-edge trapped-ion systems, Xanadu pushing photonic quantum tech, Google Quantum AI with its supremacy claims, and Microsoft Quantum with its topological qubit focus. Here's the plan:
  - **Showcasing Talent**: Our mini-hackathon on Day 4, using IBM's hackathon packages, will highlight our students' skills. If our team shines at MIT iQuHACK 2026, word will spread fast.
  - **Networking Opportunities**: The guaranteed IBM speaker and our renowned professors' talks will draw industry reps to our event, either virtually or in-person. A quick chat during the hybrid sessions could lead to follow-up emails or visits.

- The goal? Turn heads so these companies see us as a fresh talent pool or collaboration partner, maybe even inviting us to their next conference!

- **Building a QC Hub**:
The skills, networks, and credibility we gain from this event could transform our club and university into a thriving quantum hub.
  - **Ongoing Collaborations**: If IQC or Xanadu notices our event's success, they might propose joint workshops or labs. Our Technical Lead, prepping with IBM's three new notebooks, could pitch a follow-up project, like a photonic quantum simulator, to Xanadu.
  - **Industry-Sponsored Initiatives**: With IBM's backing, we could attract funding for annual QC summits or a student-led quantum lab. IonQ might sponsor hardware if they see our potential, especially after our iQuHACK performance.
  - **Curriculum Influence**: Our faculty, inspired by the event, could partner with Microsoft Quantum to integrate real-world QC into courses, making our university a pioneer. Over time, we'd host recurring events, solidifying our rep as a QC center.

- **Student Career Boost and Research Advancement**:
The IBM swag, iQuHACK exposure, and hands-on experience will give our members a leg up in the job market, while opening doors for groundbreaking research.
  - **Career Edge**: With Credly badges from the 12+ mandatory IBM seminars, our team will stand out to recruiters at Google Quantum AI or Microsoft. An iQuHACK win could land an internship.
  - **Future Research Projects**: This event is our ticket to accessing real quantum computers and data. If we impress IQC or IonQ, they might share datasets (e.g., quantum error correction stats) or let us run experiments on their systems. Our club could lead a research project, like optimizing quantum algorithms, using IBM's cloud access as a starting point.
  - **Long-Term Access**: Building relationships with these firms could mean ongoing access to their quantum hardware, think IonQ's trapped-ion machines or Google's Sycamore. This would let our university's researchers and students tackle real-world problems, like quantum cryptography, positioning us as innovators in the field set to hit $65 billion by 2030.