



FHSU AI Institute & Fair 2026

Schedule

Online Institute: Monday, April 13, 2026 | 5:00–7:00 PM CDT
In-Person Institute & Fair: Tuesday, April 14, 2026 | 9:00 AM–4:00 PM CDT

Fort Hays State University

Acknowledgments

The FHSU AI Institute & Fair 2026 is made possible through the generous support of the Office of the President and the Office of the Provost at Fort Hays State University. Their commitment to innovation in teaching, learning, and research makes events like this possible.

Online Institute

Monday, April 13, 2026 | 5:00–7:00 PM CDT

Teaching with AI

Innovations and Strategies for AI in Teaching Practice

Ultra AI Series: Course Structure

Online, April 13 | 5:00-5:15pm | Lightning Talk

Alexa Summers

Teaching Innovations & Learning Technologies (TILT), FHSU Staff

Session Description

Learn how to use Blackboard Ultra's AI Design Assistant to quickly generate course modules and write clear module descriptions. This session will demonstrate how AI can help organize course content, create consistent structure across modules, and provide students with meaningful overviews that guide their learning.

Intended Audience: Faculty

Using Claude.ai to help with accessibility.

Online, April 13 | 5:00-5:15pm | Lightning Talk

Jeremy Skrdlant

Fort Hays Tech NW Staff

Session Description

We will look at different ways to use AI to help with accessibility in our Blackboard courses.

Intended Audience: Faculty, Beginners to AI

Gemini and NotebookLM: Creating a 24/7 AI-Assisted TA to Improve the Student Experience while Supporting Advisors and Faculty

Online, April 13 | 5:00-5:30pm | Roundtable

This session is offered at both the Online Institute (April 13) and the In-Person Institute (April 14).

Robert Moody

Advanced Education Programs, FHSU faculty member

Session Description

This session demonstrates how to build a 24/7 Agentic AI-Assisted TA by grounding Gemini's reasoning in NotebookLM's specific course and program data. The result is a "source-of-truth" assistant that provides quick, reliable answers to syllabus, rubric, and advising queries at any hour.

This integration improves the student journey through immediate access while shielding advisors, faculty, and staff from the transactional drain of repetitive administrative emails. By automating routine triage and PDF searches, this AI TA reclaims vital capacity for high-impact mentorship, proactive advising, and intentional teaching.

Intended Audience: Students, Faculty

Ultra AI Series: Tests & Assignments

Online, April 13 | 5:15-5:30pm | Lightning Talk

Alexa Summers

Teaching Innovations & Learning Technologies (TILT), FHSU Staff

Session Description

Discover how Blackboard Ultra's AI Design Assistant can help you generate test questions and assignments in seconds. In this session, we'll explore how to create different types of test questions and build assignments more efficiently while maintaining academic rigor.

Intended Audience: Faculty

Ultra AI Series: Rubrics

Online, April 13 | 5:30-5:45pm | Lightning Talk

Alexa Summers

Teaching Innovations & Learning Technologies (TILT), FHSU Staff

Session Description

Rubrics help clarify expectations and streamline grading. This session demonstrates how the AI Design Assistant can generate rubric criteria and performance levels to support consistent and transparent assessment practices.

Intended Audience: Faculty

Ultra AI Series: Images

Online, April 13 | 5:45-6:00pm | Lightning Talk

Alexa Summers

Teaching Innovations & Learning Technologies (TILT), FHSU Staff

Session Description

Visual elements can enhance engagement and understanding in online courses. In this session, we'll explore how Blackboard Ultra's AI Design Assistant can generate images to support course content, module introductions, and learning activities.

Intended Audience: Faculty

FHSU Counseling Simulator for School Psychology Trainees

Online, April 13 | 6:00-6:15pm | Lightning Talk

J. T. Lacy, Ph.D. Assistant Professor, FHSU

Psychology, FHSU Faculty

Session Description

Dr. J. T. Lacy will briefly share his work on an FHSU Counseling Simulator built specifically for training future school psychologists. Attendees will: 1) obtain a brief overview of school psychology, 2) understand how counseling fits into the role of a school psychologist, 3) identify the benefits and limitations of counseling simulations, 4) and view a short demonstration of the FHSU Counseling Simulator in action. Lastly, as time allows, Dr. Lacy will field questions from the audience.

Intended Audience: Students, Faculty, Beginners to AI

NotebookLM for Teaching: Turning Course Materials into Teaching Tools

Online, April 13 | 6:15-6:30pm | Lightning Talk

Alexa Summers

Teaching Innovations & Learning Technologies (TILT), FHSU Staff

Session Description

Learn how instructors can use NotebookLM to work with course materials in new ways. In this session, we'll explore how NotebookLM can help summarize readings, generate study guides, create discussion prompts, and support course preparation using instructor-provided sources.

Intended Audience: Faculty

Strength-Based Scaffolding: Using AI to Support Twice-Exceptional Learners

Online, April 13 | 6:30-6:45pm | Lightning Talk

Tyrone Gil Jr.

Advanced Education Programs, FHSU student

Session Description

The session Strength-Based Scaffolding: Using AI to Support Twice-Exceptional Learners dives into the transformative potential of Artificial Intelligence for "2e" students—those who possess high intellectual gifts alongside learning challenges like ADHD, autism, or dyslexia. The session will follow a lightning talk discussion where I will focus on specific ways and means in leveraging AI Chatbots and other AI tools to personalize learning experience that will match their needs both as being gifted and with a disability.

Intended Audience: Students

From Disruption to Design: Teaching and Learning in the Age of Generative AI

Online, April 13 | 5:45-6:15pm | Formal Presentation

This session is offered at both the Online Institute (April 13) and the In-Person Institute (April 14).

Afees Odebode

Computer Science, FHSU faculty member

Session Description

Generative artificial intelligence has rapidly reshaped higher education. What initially emerged as a disruptive force, raising concerns about academic integrity, authorship, and assessment, has now become a permanent feature of the educational environment. As institutions move beyond reactionary responses, faculty face a central question: how can we intentionally design teaching and learning experiences that leverage AI responsibly while preserving academic rigor? This Presentation explores the shift from disruption to design in the context of generative AI. Rather than framing AI solely as a threat to traditional assignments, the session proposes a design-oriented framework for integrating generative AI into classroom practice. Drawing on classroom experience and emerging scholarship, the Presentation

will examine practical strategies for redesigning assignments, fostering AI literacy, promoting ethical use, and encouraging critical engagement with AI tools. Participants will be introduced to the concept of AI-resilient assessment, assignments structured to require reflection, iteration, verification, and personalization, ensuring that AI enhances rather than replaces meaningful learning. Concrete examples will demonstrate how generative AI can function as a guided pedagogical partner, supporting brainstorming, formative feedback, coding assistance, and collaborative learning activities. The session also addresses broader institutional considerations, including faculty development, policy clarity, and preparing students for an AI-enabled workforce. Emphasis will be placed on actionable classroom practices that faculty across disciplines can adapt immediately.

Intended Audience: Students, Faculty, Staff, Community Members, Beginners to AI, Intermediate AI users, Advanced AI users

AI Literacy: Practical Guides for Writing Classrooms

Online, April 13 | 6:15-7:00pm | Formal Presentation

Donte Thrasher and Emily Livingston

English, FHSU faculty member

Session Description

Generative artificial intelligence (GenAI) is transforming how students approach English language writing, yet many learners use it as a shortcut to finished products rather than as a scaffold for meaningful learning. Low AI literacy contributes to misuse, academic integrity concerns, and missed opportunities for learning.

This workshop will introduce a practical continuum of options for GenAI integration in writing classes, ranging from “no AI” tasks to structured, disclosure-focused use focused on fostering AI literacy. It will also provide facts and frameworks instructors can adapt to discuss the environmental and intellectual impacts of AI.

Participants will explore adaptable classroom resources, including AI-use guidelines, checklists, and prompt-engineering supports and facts that help students use GenAI to develop higher order thinking skills ethically. They will also reflect on strategies and practices to communicate the impacts of AI with students to foster more responsible usage.

By the end of the session, attendees will have concrete tools and decision-making frameworks to clarify AI policies, design practices that keep students as primary authors, and foster learners’ critical, informed, and responsible GenAI use in writing and research contexts.

Intended Audience: Faculty

HARVEST Model: Cultivating AI-Ready Agricultural Leaders

Online, April 13 | 5:30-6:15pm | Formal Presentation

Michael Woods

Agriculture, FHSU faculty member

Session Description

Artificial intelligence is rapidly reshaping agriculture through digital twins, predictive climate modeling, AI copilots, and autonomous systems. Yet higher education often integrates AI reactively rather than architecturally. This session introduces the HARVEST Model (Harnessing AI for Rural, Vocational, Emerging Systems & Training), a scalable framework for embedding cutting-edge AI into curriculum, workforce preparation, and community engagement. Participants will explore how emerging systems such as digital farm twins and AI decision copilots can move beyond tool adoption to structured program design. The presentation demonstrates how institutions can assess readiness, redesign curriculum architecture, pilot AI-enhanced learning environments, embed ethical governance, and track workforce

outcomes. Rather than teaching students to use AI, the HARVEST Model prepares them to supervise, evaluate, and shape intelligent systems. This session offers a future-facing blueprint for integrating generative and predictive AI into professional education.

Intended Audience: Faculty, Staff, Community Members

Learning with AI

AI's Impact on Student Learning and Experience

NotebookLM for Students: Supporting Learning and Study Strategies

Online, April 13 | 6:30-6:45pm | Lightning Talk

Alexa Summers

Teaching Innovations & Learning Technologies (TILT), FHSU staff member or administrator

Session Description

NotebookLM can help students engage more deeply with course materials. This session explores how students might use NotebookLM to summarize readings, ask questions about course content, and generate study aids using instructor-provided materials.

Intended Audience: Students, Faculty

Will AI Rot Your Brain? What Television Taught Us First

Online, April 13 | 5:00-5:15pm | Formal Presentation

This session is offered at both the Online Institute (April 13) and the In-Person Institute (April 14).

Andrew Feldstein

Teaching Innovations & Learning Technologies (TILT), FHSU Administrator

Session Description

For decades, critics warned that television would rot our brains. Were they right — and is AI about to do the same thing? This presentation examines what cognitive science found about television's effects on the brain, how those effects were mitigated, and what those strategies reveal about responding to AI-driven cognitive offloading. Television's most effective responses worked on two fronts: restoring displaced activities like reading and social interaction, and developing constructive viewing practices — educational programming, co-viewing, and media literacy — that transformed passive consumption into active engagement. AI threatens cognition differently, through delegation of thinking itself, but a similar dual strategy may apply: protecting the relational networks AI makes feel unnecessary while cultivating intentional AI use that strengthens rather than replaces critical thinking. Drawing on network theory, displacement research, and emerging studies on AI-derivative epistemology, this session explores what worked for television and where AI demands something new.

Intended Audience: Students, Faculty, Staff, Community Members, Beginners to AI, Intermediate AI users, Advanced AI users

Creative AI

AI in Art, Music, Writing, and Creativity

AI in Museums and Public Presentations

Online, April 13 | 6:45-7:00pm | Lightning Talk

This session is offered at both the Online Institute (April 13) and the In-Person Institute (April 14).

Bradley Penka

Sternberg Museum, FHSU Staff

Session Description

Sternberg Museum is creating a traveling exhibition entitled, "The Sunflower League: The Secret Lives of Kansas State Symbols." The exhibition is comprised of a series of 30 3'x5' panels replicating a comic book with each page depicting an official Kansas State Symbol. We have used AI to assist in the creation and manipulation of a set of cartoon characters to tell the story in a whimsical and entertaining manner. By using AI, we have cut down on time required to hand draw characters in various and occasionally repetitive similar poses for frames on each page. The exhibition will travel across the state of Kansas educating the public about the various Kansas symbols, their origins, meanings, and relationship to life in Kansas. These AI characters will also be used in educational outreach programs, and marketing.

Intended Audience: Community Members, Beginners to AI

Multimedia and AI: Tools, Opportunities, and Ethics

Online, April 13 | 5:00-5:30pm | Roundtable

This session is offered at both the Online Institute (April 13) and the In-Person Institute (April 14).

Andy Tincknell

Forsyth Library, FHSU Staff

Session Description

Bring your ideas, questions, and concerns for anything about multimedia and AI. What are your favorite tools? How are you using AI with multimedia for your classes or other work? What should be cautious of when using it?

Intended Audience: Students, Faculty, Staff, Community Members, Beginners to AI, Intermediate AI users, Advanced AI users

AI, Creativity, and Intellectual Property in Education

Online, April 13 | 6:30-7:00pm | Roundtable

This session is offered at both the Online Institute (April 13) and the In-Person Institute (April 14).

Vicki Eastman

FHSU alumni

Session Description

AI is shaking up how students create work, from writing essays to designing graphics, coding projects, and marketing campaigns. That means questions about who really owns that work, who gets credit, and what is ethical are popping up everywhere. This roundtable is all about talking through those questions with fellow educators. We will use examples from media, marketing, and CTE classes to spark conversation, but the ideas will work no matter what you teach. Participants will share strategies, swap ideas, and brainstorm ways to help students think critically about AI, originality, and intellectual property. Attendees will walk away with practical approaches they can use in their own classroom and get a better sense of how AI is changing the rules of student work.

Intended Audience: Students, Faculty, Staff, Community Members, Beginners to AI, Intermediate AI users, Advanced AI users

AI as a Creative Engine: Voice, Identity, and Storytelling

Online, April 13 | 6:15-7:00pm | Roundtable

This session is offered at both the Online Institute (April 13) and the In-Person Institute (April 14).

Russell Irby

Administration & Finance, FHSU Staff

Session Description

Generative AI is often viewed as a tool for efficiency, but its impact on creativity may be even more transformative. This session explores how AI can be used to amplify personal voice, storytelling, and visual expression. Using real examples from AI-generated imagery and narrative-driven LinkedIn content, the presenter will demonstrate how individuals can create cohesive personal brands, emotional narratives, and visually compelling content at scale. The session will also address authenticity, tone, and the balance between human intent and AI assistance. Attendees will leave with practical strategies for using AI to enhance creativity without losing their unique voice.

Intended Audience: Students, Faculty, Staff, Community Members, Beginners to AI, Intermediate AI users

AI Research

Current Studies and Methodologies in AI

Knowledge Base Requirements for Non-Monotonic Reasoning in AI Systems

Online, April 13 | 5:30-6:15pm | Formal Presentation

This session is offered at both the Online Institute (April 13) and the In-Person Institute (April 14).

Dr. Clark Sexton

Informatics, FHSU Faculty

Session Description

AI systems do not merely need to be capable of adding new information but may also need to revise or reject elements in their knowledge bases (they are, in this sense, "non-monotonic") in order to maintain consistency within the knowledge base. However, the capability of making the correct revisions to the knowledge base imposes certain requirements of the knowledge base system (how the information is stored and whether appropriate "meta" information is necessary). I will show (with rather ordinary and commonly occurring kinds of examples) both why the issue of non-monotonicity is important, and how at

least some forms of it can be addressed by including key philosophical distinctions as part of the “meta” information of the propositions represented in the knowledge base.

Intended Audience: Students, Faculty, Beginners to AI, Intermediate AI users, Advanced AI users

Cutting-Edge AI

Emerging or Future-Facing AI Applications

Too Long, Didn't Learn: AI That Fixes Your Attention Span

Online, April 13 | 5:15-5:30pm | Lightning Talk

Chanrattanak Mong

FHSU alumni

Session Description

The average person abandons an article within 60 seconds. Students skim readings. Faculty lose audiences mid-lecture. Staff drown in reports. Everyone has more content than time. This session introduces agentic AI as an attention architect through a live, hands-on demo. Attendees will access a purpose-built web app during the session, paste any news article, and watch an AI agent transform it in real time into a sequenced micro-lesson, three Socratic questions that test genuine comprehension, and a 60-second brief. Unlike ChatGPT or NotebookLM, the agent does not summarize. It reasons about what matters, what connects, and what the reader needs to retain. Participants leave having tested cutting-edge agentic AI firsthand, not just heard about it.

Intended Audience: Students, Faculty, Staff, Community Members, Beginners to AI, Intermediate AI users, Advanced AI users

From Fields to Algorithms: Cultivating AI Architects for Agriculture's Future

Online, April 13 | 6:15-7:00pm | Formal Presentation

Michael Woods

Agriculture, FHSU Faculty

Session Description

Agriculture is entering the age of intelligent systems—digital farm twins, AI decision copilots, predictive climate networks, and autonomous production models. The future agricultural workforce will not simply operate equipment; they will supervise algorithms, interpret predictive models, and ethically govern data-driven systems.

This session challenges agricultural education to move beyond AI awareness and toward AI architecture. Participants will explore how to cultivate graduates who can design, evaluate, and lead AI-enabled agricultural systems across production, finance, sustainability, and rural innovation. Through examples including digital farm twins, AI-assisted risk modeling, and rural data cooperatives, this presentation reframes AI not as a classroom tool, but as infrastructure shaping the future of agricultural careers and communities.

The question is no longer whether agriculture will use AI. The question is whether we will prepare students to lead it.

Intended Audience: Students, Faculty, Staff, Community Members

In-Person Institute

Tuesday, April 14, 2026 | 9:00 AM–4:00 PM CDT

Teaching with AI

Innovations and Strategies for AI in Teaching Practice

Same Outcomes, Different Paths: Personalizing Assignments with AI

In-Person, April 14 | 9:15-9:30am | Lightning Talk

Memorial Union, Stouffer Lounge

Shane Schartz

Informatics, FHSU faculty member

Session Description

This session presents an AI-supported approach to personalized assignments that maintains shared learning outcomes while increasing student engagement. Instead of assigning identical tasks, students provide three inputs: major, interest, and experience level (foundational, applied, or professional). AI uses these inputs to adapt a single core assignment into meaningful variations without changing objectives or assessment criteria. Participants will explore examples across disciplines and see how assignments vary in context and depth while remaining aligned to common rubrics. The session also addresses concerns about rigor, equity, and student choice. This approach positions AI not as a shortcut for answers, but as a tool for creating relevant, flexible learning experiences.

Intended Audience: Students, Faculty, Beginners to AI, Intermediate AI users, Advanced AI users

Gemini and NotebookLM: Creating a 24/7 AI-Assisted TA to Improve the Student Experience while Supporting Advisors and Faculty

In person, April 14 | 11:00-11:45am | Roundtable

Memorial Union, Stouffer Lounge

This session is offered at both the Online Institute (April 13) and the In-Person Institute (April 14).

Robert Moody

Advanced Education Programs, FHSU faculty member

Session Description

This session demonstrates how to build a 24/7 Agentic AI-Assisted TA by grounding Gemini's reasoning in NotebookLM's specific course and program data. The result is a "source-of-truth" assistant that provides quick, reliable answers to syllabus, rubric, and advising queries at any hour.

This integration improves the student journey through immediate access while shielding advisors, faculty, and staff from the transactional drain of repetitive administrative emails. By automating routine triage and PDF searches, this AI TA reclaims vital capacity for high-impact mentorship, proactive advising, and intentional teaching.

Intended Audience: Students, Faculty

Red, Yellow, Green: A Stoplight Model for AI Use

In-Person, April 14 | 1:00-1:45pm | Formal Presentation

Memorial Union, Trails Room

Elodie Jones

Advanced Education Programs, FHSU faculty member

Session Description

The session will discuss several grounded writings in the use of a stoplight model for developing a transparent and straightforward approach to student AI use. The session will discuss background, sources, developed tools, and both implementation and student feedback.

Intended Audience: Faculty

Making Student Thinking Visible: A Snorkl Deep Dive

In-Person, April 14 | 3:00-3:45pm | Formal Presentation

Memorial Union, Trails Room

Marie Henderson

Advanced Education Programs, FHSU faculty member

Session Description

Explore how Snorkl helps students record their verbal and visual thinking while giving them instant, personalized AI feedback in the moment. Participants will see how this multimodal tool can increase student voice, make thinking visible, and support deeper learning across subjects. Snorkl describes itself as a multimodal AI tool for the classroom that supports verbal and visual explanations, gives on-the-spot feedback, and provides teachers with insights into student thinking. It works with all elementary and secondary grade levels and there are templates provided for core and elective content areas.

Intended Audience: Faculty

Learning with AI

AI's Impact on Student Learning and Experience

What Do English Students Think of AI?

In-Person, April 14 | 3:15-3:30pm | Lightning Talk

Memorial Union, Stouffer Lounge

Isaiah Russell

English, FHSU student

Session Description

I am currently conducting a survey of FHSU's English majors and minors regarding their usage and perspectives on AI in academic contexts; specifically, the survey asks to what extent they use AI in their writing practices, how they feel it affects them as students, and their attitudes towards the era of increased AI presence we have entered. The presentation I am proposing will aggregate and synthesize the results of this survey via a PowerPoint with charts, selected quotes, and overall trends to illustrate what our English students—who are in one of the most affected disciplines—feel about generative AI tools.

Intended Audience: Students, Faculty

Will AI Rot Your Brain? What Television Taught Us First

In person, April 14 | 1:00-1:45pm | Formal Presentation

Memorial Union, Stouffer Lounge

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Andrew Feldstein

Teaching Innovations & Learning Technologies (TILT), FHSU Administrator

Session Description

For decades, critics warned that television would rot our brains. Were they right — and is AI about to do the same thing? This presentation examines what cognitive science found about television's effects on the brain, how those effects were mitigated, and what those strategies reveal about responding to AI-driven cognitive offloading. Television's most effective responses worked on two fronts: restoring displaced activities like reading and social interaction, and developing constructive viewing practices — educational programming, co-viewing, and media literacy — that transformed passive consumption into active engagement. AI threatens cognition differently, through delegation of thinking itself, but a similar dual strategy may apply: protecting the relational networks AI makes feel unnecessary while cultivating intentional AI use that strengthens rather than replaces critical thinking. Drawing on network theory, displacement research, and emerging studies on AI-derivative epistemology, this session explores what worked for television and where AI demands something new.

Intended Audience: Students, Faculty, Staff, Community Members, Beginners to AI, Intermediate AI users, Advanced AI users

NotebookLM in Education: Transforming Studying and Content Delivery

In-Person, April 14 | 2:00-2:45pm | Formal Presentation

Memorial Union, Stouffer Lounge

Arrica Braun and Jaye Skinner

Allied Health, FHSU Faculty and Student

Session Description

This session explores how NotebookLM can transform both studying and content delivery in higher education. Participants will see a demonstration of how NotebookLM can be used to create and manage Open Educational Resources (OER) and how easily it integrates into existing university platforms. The session will also highlight its value as a student learning tool, including features such as interactive chat, AI-generated podcasts, quizzes, slides, flashcards, infographics, study guides, and mind maps. Because NotebookLM is grounded in user-provided materials, it offers a reliable and focused AI experience for both instructors and students. Attendees will leave with knowledge of NotebookLM and how to incorporate this tool to enhance engagement, streamline content delivery, and support more effective studying.

Intended Audience: Students, Faculty, Beginners to AI, Intermediate AI users

Creative AI

AI in Art, Music, Writing, and Creativity

AI in Museums and Public Presentations

In person, April 14 | 9:00-9:15am | Lightning Talk

Memorial Union, Stouffer Lounge

This session is offered at both the Online Institute (April 13) and the In-Person Institute (April 14).

Bradley Penka

Sternberg Museum, FHSU staff member or administrator

Session Description

Sternberg Museum is creating a traveling exhibition entitled, "The Sunflower League: The Secret Lives of Kansas State Symbols." The exhibition is comprised of a series of 30 3'x5' panels replicating a comic book with each page depicting an official Kansas State Symbol. We have used AI to assist in the creation and manipulation of a set of cartoon characters to tell the story in a whimsical and entertaining manner. By using AI, we have cut down on time required to hand draw characters in various and occasionally repetitive similar poses for frames on each page. The exhibition will travel across the state of Kansas educating the public about the various Kansas symbols, their origins, meanings, and relationship to life in Kansas. These AI characters will also be used in educational outreach programs, and marketing.

Intended Audience: Community Members, Beginners to AI

Multimedia and AI: Tools, Opportunities, and Ethics

In person, April 14 | 2:00-2:45pm | Roundtable

Memorial Union, Black & Gold Room

This session is offered at both the Online Institute (April 13) and the In-Person Institute (April 14).

Andy Tincknell

Forsyth Library, FHSU Staff

Session Description

Bring your ideas, questions, and concerns for anything about multimedia and AI. What are your favorite tools? How are you using AI with multimedia for your classes or other work? What should be cautious of when using it?

Intended Audience: Students, Faculty, Staff, Community Members, Beginners to AI, Intermediate AI users, Advanced AI users

AI, Creativity, and Intellectual Property in Education

In person, April 14 | 1:00-1:45pm | Roundtable

Memorial Union, Black & Gold Room

This session is offered at both the Online Institute (April 13) and the In-Person Institute (April 14).

Vicki Eastman

FHSU alumni

Session Description

AI is shaking up how students create work, from writing essays to designing graphics, coding projects, and marketing campaigns. That means questions about who really owns that work, who gets credit, and what is ethical are popping up everywhere. This roundtable is all about talking through those questions with fellow educators. We will use examples from media, marketing, and CTE classes to spark conversation, but the ideas will work no matter what you teach. Participants will share strategies, swap ideas, and brainstorm ways to help students think critically about AI, originality, and intellectual property. Attendees will walk away with practical approaches they can use in their own classroom and get a better sense of how AI is changing the rules of student work.

Intended Audience: Students, Faculty, Staff, Community Members, Beginners to AI, Intermediate AI users, Advanced AI users

AI as a Creative Engine: Voice, Identity, and Storytelling

In person, April 14 | 9:00-9:45am | Roundtable

Memorial Union, Trails Room

This session is offered at both the Online Institute (April 13) and the In-Person Institute (April 14).

Russell Irby

Administration & Finance, FHSU Staff

Session Description

Generative AI is often viewed as a tool for efficiency, but its impact on creativity may be even more transformative. This session explores how AI can be used to amplify personal voice, storytelling, and visual expression. Using real examples from AI-generated imagery and narrative-driven LinkedIn content, the presenter will demonstrate how individuals can create cohesive personal brands, emotional narratives, and visually compelling content at scale. The session will also address authenticity, tone, and the balance between human intent and AI assistance. Attendees will leave with practical strategies for using AI to enhance creativity without losing their unique voice.

Intended Audience: Students, Faculty, Staff, Community Members, Beginners to AI, Intermediate AI users

AI Research

Current Studies and Methodologies in AI

AI and Writing: Surveys of Student Perceptions and Use

In-Person, April 14 | 3:00-3:15pm | Lightning Talk

Memorial Union, Stouffer Lounge

Cheryl Duffy and Rose Helens-Hart

English and Applied Business, FHSU Faculty

Session Description

This spring marks the third year in a row that the Writing Across the Curriculum Committee has surveyed FHSU students across majors to gauge their knowledge, attitudes, and practices regarding generative AI as a writing tool. In this quick overview, we will highlight key trends emerging from our longitudinal study and discuss briefly the implications for students and faculty. We have data from 2024 and 2025. Because

the 2026 survey is in progress, we will promote participation and anticipate what this most recent data might reveal.

Intended Audience: Students, Faculty

AI and Human Friendships

In-Person, April 14 | 11:00-11:45am | Roundtable

Memorial Union, Trails Room

Stephanie Weigel

Psychology, FHSU faculty member

Session Description

As the availability of Artificial Intelligence (AI) has increased several questions about the risks and opportunities have emerged. AI intended for companionship (Nomi, Kindroid, Replika, Candy.ai, and Character.ai) are of particular interest due to potential social and emotional influences. According to Malfacini (2025) use of AI companions could lead to a lower need for belonging, resulting in a decrease in efforts towards human social engagement. However, AI use could also stimulate an individual's social appetite because they have experienced the reward of social engagement and want to seek more. Several potential risks as well as benefits have been suggested including social upskilling, motivation, improved mood, improved confidence, diminished critical thinking, social deskilling, immoral behavior, and risky behavior (Malfacini, 2025). This roundtable discussion will begin with information from an ongoing study regarding AI/human friendships. Discussion prompts will explore motivations, potential benefits, and risks related to AI/human friendships.

Intended Audience: Students, Faculty, Staff, Community Members

Knowledge Base Requirements for Non-Monotonic Reasoning in AI Systems

In-Person, April 14 | 10:00-10:45am | Formal Presentation

Memorial Union, Stouffer Lounge

This session is offered at both the Online Institute (April 13) and the In-Person Institute (April 14).

Dr. Clark Sexton

Informatics, FHSU Faculty

Session Description

AI systems do not merely need to be capable of adding new information but may also need to revise or reject elements in their knowledge bases (they are, in this sense, "non-monotonic") in order to maintain consistency within the knowledge base. However, the capability of making the correct revisions to the knowledge base imposes certain requirements of the knowledge base system (how the information is stored and whether appropriate "meta" information is necessary). I will show (with rather ordinary and commonly occurring kinds of examples) both why the issue of non-monotonicity is important, and how at least some forms of it can be addressed by including key philosophical distinctions as part of the "meta" information of the propositions represented in the knowledge base.

Intended Audience: Students, Faculty, Beginners to AI, Intermediate AI users, Advanced AI users

How the COE Field Experiences Office Observes all Students at Once: Using AI Identify Trends in Qualitative Data

In-Person, April 14 | 10:00-10:45am | Formal Presentation

Memorial Union, Trails Room

Rachel Wentling

FHSU Director of Field Experience, FHSU College of Education

Session Description

This session demonstrates how the College of Education Field Experiences Office uses Microsoft Copilot in Excel to analyze large volumes of qualitative observation data. Designed for beginners, the presentation walks through a practical workflow for organizing and identifying trends within spreadsheet-based data. Participants will see how Copilot can support decision-making by surfacing patterns and themes that inform program improvement, supervision practices, and student support. While grounded in a field experience context, the strategies shared are adaptable across disciplines and institutional roles.

Intended Audience: Faculty, Staff, Beginners to AI

Cutting-Edge AI

Emerging or Future-Facing AI Applications

What are agents? A historical and anatomical overview

In-Person, April 14 | 2:00-2:45pm | Presentation

Memorial Union, Trails Room

Nathan Zimmerman

Senior Software Engineer, Element 84

Session Description

Agents did not appear all at once. This presentation discusses what LLMs are, how they were trained, how they use context, and how tool calling emerged. We move from pretraining and post-training through attention, context, tools, and prompting patterns into the architectural forms agents take in real systems.

Intended Audience: Students, Faculty, Staff, Community Members, Beginners to AI, Intermediate AI users, Advanced AI users

How Nex-Tech Harnesses AI: Insight from Award-Winning Professionals

In-Person, April 14 | 3:00-3:45pm | Roundtable

Memorial Union, Black & Gold Room

Marley Little

FHSU student and representative of Nex-Tech

Session Description

This presentation explores how innovation is shaping the future of a rural tech leader. Presented by FHSU student and Nex-Tech Community Engagement Intern Marley Little, this session shares firsthand perspectives gathered from top professionals within Nex-Tech. Attendees will learn how the company is leveraging AI to improve efficiency, better serve customers, and stay ahead in a rapidly evolving digital landscape. The presentation also highlights Nex-Tech's recognition as a winner of NTCA—The Rural Broadband Association's AI Challenge. Marley will offer personal insights from her internship experience and discuss how Nex-Tech's tools and strategies can benefit students, faculty, and community members. The session concludes with an opportunity for audience questions and meaningful discussion.

Intended Audience: Students, Community Members

AI Fair Booths

Tuesday, April 14, 2026 | 4:00 PM–6:00 PM CDT

Interactive exhibits and demonstrations. First 50 people to complete the scavenger hunt receive a gift bag.

Nex-Tech Booth

Marley Little

FHSU student and representative of Nex-Tech

Prompt Trivia

Claire Nickerson, Seth Kastle

Generative AI Task Force

Stop Searching, Start Knowing: Why Gemini + NotebookLM is the Only AI You Actually Need

Robert Moody

FHSU faculty member, AEP

Most AIs learn from the whole internet; we'll show you how to build one that only learns from your world. Whether it's a 50-page contract, a complex project manual, or a mountain of notes, Gemini and NotebookLM create a personalized "Expert-in-a-Box" that gives you quick, reliable answers in seconds.

AI DJ

TBD

FHSU GenAI Task Force

Ask a philosopher

David Tolstensen

FHSU Philosophy Program

AI Art

TBD

FHSU GenAI Task Force

ReaderAI

Jace Hesford

Project AI Reading Simulation

AI@FHSU Magazine

Adia Reynolds & Brandon Robertson

AI@FHSU Editorial Team
