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NATIONAL APPLIED AI CONSORTIUM

EMPOWERING COMMUNITY COLLEGES
NATIONWIDE TO TRAIN THE AI WORKFORCE

National Applied AI Consortium Newsletter – December 2024

November was an extraordinary month for the National Applied AI Consortium (NAAIC), marked by key initiatives and impactful events.

We proudly launched the [National AI Business and Industry Leadership Team](#) (BILT), a critical step in fostering collaboration between industry and education to align AI curriculum with workforce needs. This initiative sets the foundation for equipping students with relevant skills to thrive in the ever-evolving AI landscape.

Faculty engagement was at the forefront through collaborations with Microsoft and Google and the launch of the Consortium’s *Community of Practice*.

- The highly successful *Microsoft AI Bootcamp* prepared 200 faculty nationwide for the AI-900 Azure AI Fundamentals certification. Participants not only enhanced their foundational AI knowledge but also received vouchers to test for certification at no cost.
- *Grow with Google’s webinar* attracted over 200 participants to explore how community colleges can take advantage of no-cost access to Google’s latest AI training resources, including the new Google Prompting Essentials course.
- The inaugural *Community of Practice* (CoP) session welcomed over 100 faculty and administrators nationwide into the collaborative network designed to foster connection and shared learning in AI education. The CoP will meet quarterly with topics brought by participants. Continue following our monthly newsletter for upcoming CoP meetings.

Interested in what’s next?

We are excited to announce a collaboration with AWS for *AI Faculty Training*, and the three selected colleges that will participate in NAAIC’s *Mentorship Program*. Learn more in the **Announcements** section below!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

AWS AI Practitioner Faculty Training



The National Applied AI Consortium, in collaboration with AWS Academy, is announcing a free ***AWS AI Practitioner Faculty Training*** to empower community college educators to teach the new AWS AI Practitioner certification. The training will combine 6 hours of instructor-led sessions with 18 hours of self-paced learning, equipping participants with essential knowledge of AI and ML principles and practical use cases.

Eligible faculty with foundational AI and ML knowledge will gain the tools to prepare students for AI careers. Upon successful completion, participants will receive a voucher to take the AWS AI Practitioner certification exam, further supporting the advancement of AI education at the community college level.

Applications are now open. Don't miss this opportunity!

[LEARN MORE](#)

NAAIC Mentorship Program Selection

We are excited to announce the selection of **Des Moines Area Community College**, **Illinois Central College**, and **Valencia College** as participants in the inaugural year of the NAAIC Mentorship Program.

These institutions will receive dedicated guidance and resources to support the development of their AI associate degree programs. The mentorship initiative reflects NAAIC's commitment to expanding access to high-quality AI education and preparing the next generation of AI professionals.

Congratulations to the selected colleges! We look forward to working together to shape the future of AI education.

HIGHLIGHTS

The Transformative Impact of AI Education at Community Colleges



Sumesh Surendran’s journey at Houston Community College (HCC) demonstrates how meaningful AI degree programs at the community college level can empower students to make a real-world impact. Sumesh, a graduate of HCC’s Associate in Applied Science in AI and current student in the Bachelor in AI & Robotics, gained the skills through the college’s supportive environment and practical curriculum to undertake LeukoLens—a groundbreaking project aimed at diagnosing blood cancer in children. This experience allowed him to win the USA Country Region Award at the Intel AI Global Impact Festival 2024, a moment he describes as both validating and deeply rewarding.

Sumesh credits HCC for providing the foundation that helped him develop not only technical skills but also the ability to solve real problems in an AI-driven world. As an advocate for AI education, he hopes his story inspires others to explore the opportunities available through AI degree programs. “I’m more than happy to share my story,” he says, “and I hope it can inspire others to explore the transformative power of AI and technology.”

Community colleges play a critical role in shaping the next generation of AI professionals. Stories like Sumesh’s highlight the importance of providing students nationwide with an accessible, high-quality education that bridges the gap between technical knowledge and real-world applications.

UPCOMING EVENTS

AWS FACULTY TRAINING INFO SESSION
December 10, 2024
12:00 PM to 1:00 PM EST

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