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NATIONAL APPLIED AI CONSORTIUM

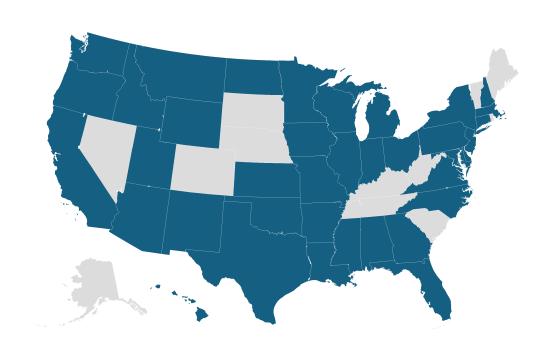
EMPOWERING COMMUNITY COLLEGES NATIONWIDE TO TRAIN THE AI WORKFORCE

National Applied AI Consortium Newsletter – May 2025

The National Applied AI Consortium (NAAIC) is thrilled to share exciting developments reflecting our growing impact across the AI education landscape. In this newsletter, we are sharing an Impact Recap of our first 6 months, highlighting key milestones, faculty engagement, and the growing momentum behind our mission to build an Al-ready workforce nationwide. We are also announcing a new partnership with **OpenAl Academy** to help learners of all backgrounds build AI literacy, and sharing an overview of our initial work in AI pathways for K-12.

Six Months of Momentum: NAAIC's National Impact Recap

As we pass the half-year mark since the launch of the National Applied Al Consortium, we are proud to share the impact of our initiatives to advance Al workforce development across the nation. From coast to coast, NAAIC has led the charge in building a strong AI talent pipeline, serving over 950 college faculty and administrators from 40 states through trainings, conferences, webinars, and mentorship.



In just 6 months, we have trained over 400 college faculty in certifications like Microsoft Azure Al Fundamentals, MSLE Foundational Al, and AWS Al Practitioner, and coursework from Intel's AI for Workforce and Grow with Google Al courses. Our Annual National Al Conference brought together over 500 attendees at Houston Community College in April, sparking cross-sector collaboration through keynotes, panels, and workshops.

In the meantime, the members of our National AI Business Industry Leadership Team have collaborated closely with faculty to develop the Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities (KSA) framework for an Applied AI Associate's degree that every community college can leverage. This framework, to be released in the next couple of months, ensures the AI curriculum is aligned with real-world workforce needs and industry expectations.

Finally, our unique AI mentorship program was launched with three community colleges that are already making strides in AI education: Valencia College, Illinois Central College and Des Moines Area Community College (highlighted below in this newsletter).

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classroom, and one educator at a time. Stay tuned for what's ahead as we

Read on for more details about our new partnership with OpenAI and upcoming opportunities.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

continue to scale, connect, and innovate.

OpenAl Academy

NAAIC is proud to announce its collaboration with **OpenAI Academy** to enhance AI literacy and education. OpenAI Academy provides a powerful suite of free educational tools designed to help learners of all backgrounds understand and apply artificial intelligence in real-world scenarios. Whether you're an educator, student, entrepreneur, or simply AI-curious, this resource hub has something for you.

NAAIC will host an info session with OpenAI Academy on June 24th from 2:00–3:00 PM EST to explore a growing library of:

- Webinars, blogs, and short videos
- Quick Start guides to get started with AI
- Specialized content from OpenAI and community partners tailored to specific audiences

Learn how to make the most of these resources and ask questions directly to OpenAI.

REGISTER NOW

AI PATHWAYS FOR K-12

NAAIC is actively working on advancing AI education for K-12 students by developing strong academic pathways and frameworks. Through the *AI Entry Pathways* project, funded by a \$2 million National Science Foundation grant, Miami Dade College, Houston Community College and Maricopa Community Colleges are creating scalable pathways into AI education. The initiative includes an AI teacher training academy for K-12 educators, and summer camps, dual enrollment courses, and wraparound supports for high school students entering AI programs at community colleges.

As part of this work, NAAIC is collaborating with the University of Florida to develop a national AI framework for high schools to have AI standards framed as student learning objectives. This innovative approach will help bridge career and technical education with core academic disciplines, ensuring teachers are equipped to teach AI by embedding AI concepts across the curriculum. These efforts will be shared widely through NAAIC channels, reinforcing the Consortium's role as a national hub for advancing applied AI education.

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MENTORSHIP APPLICATION IS OPEN!

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NAAIC is accepting applications for its 2025–2026 institutional mentorship program! This initiative is designed to support U.S. accredited community colleges in launching or expanding AI associate degree programs. Selected institutions will benefit from expert faculty and administrator mentorship, access to industry-aligned resources, and dedicated support for curriculum development.

Additional benefits include:

- Priority access to AI professional development opportunities
- Travel stipends to attend NAAIC's annual AI Conference
- Assistance in building a local Business Industry Leadership Team
- Guidance on student recruitment and program implementation

Key Dates:

- Application Deadline: August 1, 2025, by 11:59 PM EST
- Notification of Selection: August 29, 2025
- Mentorship Period: September 2025 July 2026

To be eligible, applicants must secure full support from both a faculty lead and a senior administrator, and commit to launching at least one Al-related course during the mentorship period.

LEARN MORE

HIGHLIGHTS

Des Moines Area Community College

Mentorship Participant 2024-2025

Des Moines Area Community College (DMACC) is making significant strides in artificial intelligence education through its 2024–2025 mentorship engagement.



Becky Deitenbeck, M.S., P.M.P
Faculty Lead, Artificial Intelligence

As a forward-thinking institution, DMACC has secured approval for an Associate in Science in AI degree and a 18-hour Certificate in AI, both set to launch in Fall 2025. With the new curriculum approved, DMACC is advancing program development, with some courses completed and others underway.

Leading the way at DMACC are faculty like Becky Deitenbeck, who are actively participating in cutting-edge AI training programs offered by NAAIC to bring the latest industry insights and tools into the classroom. To build early engagement, leading Professor Deitenbeck is teaching an Intro to AI course on the noncredit side, sparking student interest and laying the groundwork for the coming AI degree.

professionals practical, hands-on training that directly applies to their educational and career paths, igniting their interest in the dynamic field of AI.

From program development to faculty training and community outreach, DMACC is making bold moves to ensure students are prepared for the Al-driven future.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Community of Practice

May 16, 2025

12:00 PM to 1:00 PM EST

REGISTER HERE

OpenAl Info Session
June 24, 2025

2:00 PM to 3:00 PM EST

REGISTER HERE

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For inquiries, please contact us at: naaic@mdc.edu

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