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NATIONAL APPLIED AI CONSORTIUM

EMPOWERING COMMUNITY COLLEGES
NATIONWIDE TO TRAIN THE AI WORKFORCE

National Applied AI Consortium Newsletter – June 2025

As we wrap up the first half of the year, we’re proud to reflect on the momentum building across NAAIC’s network. In May, we announced a new partnership with **OpenAI Academy**, giving educators and learners access to powerful, free AI learning tools. We also hosted a dynamic **Community of Practice** meeting, where faculty from across the country came together in a lightning round session to share their experiences, insights, and strategies for bringing AI into the classroom.

This month’s newsletter continues that energy, featuring our latest collaboration with **AWS Skills to Jobs** to announce their brand new **AI Skilling Pathway**. We are also thrilled to announce the return of our high-demand **Microsoft Azure AI-900 Bootcamp**. If you were unable to make it to our AI-900 training, now is your opportunity to join our summer AI Bootcamp and get certified. Finally, learn more about the **CRA Summit on AI Undergraduate Education** taking place on July 29, 2025, in San Francisco. They have limited spots reserved for community college faculty and administrators.

Read on to explore new training opportunities and get involved in what’s ahead!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

AWS AI Skilling Pathway

Transform your faculty's and students' Gen AI capabilities with NAAIC's newest skilling pathway in collaboration with AWS. Set to launch this summer, this online AI Skilling Pathway will give learners experience using and building Generative AI applications, with content designed for both technical and non-technical audiences. The pathway includes:

- Real-world implementation scenarios reflecting current industry use cases
- Content covering:
 - Prompt Engineering and LLMs for Everyone
 - Programmatic Prompting (for technical audiences)
 - Building Enterprise Gen AI Applications (for technical audiences)

Additional details, including official launch dates and access instructions, will be shared during the National AI Consortium Info Session on [July 15, 12 PM EST](#).

[REGISTER NOW](#)

Microsoft AI-900 Bootcamp

In partnership with Microsoft, NAAIC is offering no-cost AI Bootcamp designed to help community college faculty teach AI skills. Join us this July for a **free two-day AI-900 Train-the-Trainer Bootcamp**, designed to equip you with the tools and knowledge to confidently teach Microsoft Azure AI Fundamentals.

Led by a Microsoft Certified Trainer (MCT), this interactive online training will prepare you to earn the **AI-900: Microsoft Azure AI Fundamentals certification** and introduce you to the **Microsoft Learn for Educators (MSLE)** platform, where you'll access official Microsoft courseware, teaching resources, and labs.

What's included:

- Live instruction from a certified Microsoft trainer
- Hands-on labs and teaching materials
- Certification exam voucher upon full participation
- Post-training access to a dedicated Teams channel with session recordings, materials, and peer support

Key Dates:

- **Application Deadline:** July 7, 2025
- **Training Dates:** July 11 & 18, 2025 | 9:00 AM–3:00 PM EDT

Eligibility:

- Faculty from U.S.-accredited community colleges are welcome to apply

Don't miss this chance to deepen your AI expertise and bring industry-recognized skills to your classroom.

[APPLY NOW](#)

CRA Summit on AI Undergraduate Education

The Computing Research Association (CRA) is hosting an exclusive **Summit on AI Undergraduate Education** on **Tuesday, July 29, 2025, in San Francisco, CA**, and is reserving a limited number of spots specifically for **community college faculty and administrators**.

The Summit will convene national thought leaders from academia, industry, and government to discuss how undergraduate computing programs can evolve to meet the challenges and opportunities of AI. A welcome reception will be held the evening prior, on **Monday, July 28**.

Travel funding is expected to be available for selected U.S.-based community college participants. **Space is limited**, so express your interest early to be considered for this unique opportunity to help shape the future of AI education:

[LEARN MORE](#)

NAAIC is currently accepting applications for its **2025–2026 Mentorship Program!** This initiative supports U.S.–accredited community colleges in launching or expanding AI associate degree programs with guidance from experienced faculty and administrators.

Selected colleges will gain access to expert mentorship, industry-aligned resources, curriculum support, and more; including priority access to professional development, travel stipends to the NAAIC AI Conference, and help building a local Business & Industry Leadership Team.

LEARN MORE

HIGHLIGHTS

Illinois Central College

Mentorship Participant 2024-2025

A word from our mentee:

During Fall 2024, Illinois Central College (ICC) launched its first 18–credit–hour Certificate in AI, marking an initial step into AI education. With the support of the NAAIC mentorship program, we’re now confidently developing a full Associate in Applied Science (AAS) in AI.



Dr. Rafeeq Al-Hashemi,
Associate Professor, Computer Sciences

NAAIC’s mentorship has provided more than just curriculum guidance, it’s been transformational. Through hands–on training with Intel and AWS, participation in the National AI Conference, and regular mentorship meetings, our faculty have gained the tools and confidence to build a future–ready AI program. Monthly touchpoints with our mentor and the NAAIC team ensured we stayed on track and had the support needed to move forward.

The mentorship also helped us strengthen outreach and industry engagement. We launched a Business and Industry Leadership Team focused on AI, which has been vital in aligning our curriculum with workforce needs. With input from peers and regional stakeholders, ICC is now preparing to submit our AAS in AI for approval, aiming to launch in Fall 2026.

UPCOMING EVENTS

OpenAI Info Session
June 24, 2025

AWS AI Pathways
Info Session
July 15, 2025

REGISTER HERE

REGISTER HERE

Microsoft Azure AI-900 Bootcamp
July 11 & 18, 2025

9:00 AM to 3:00 PM EST

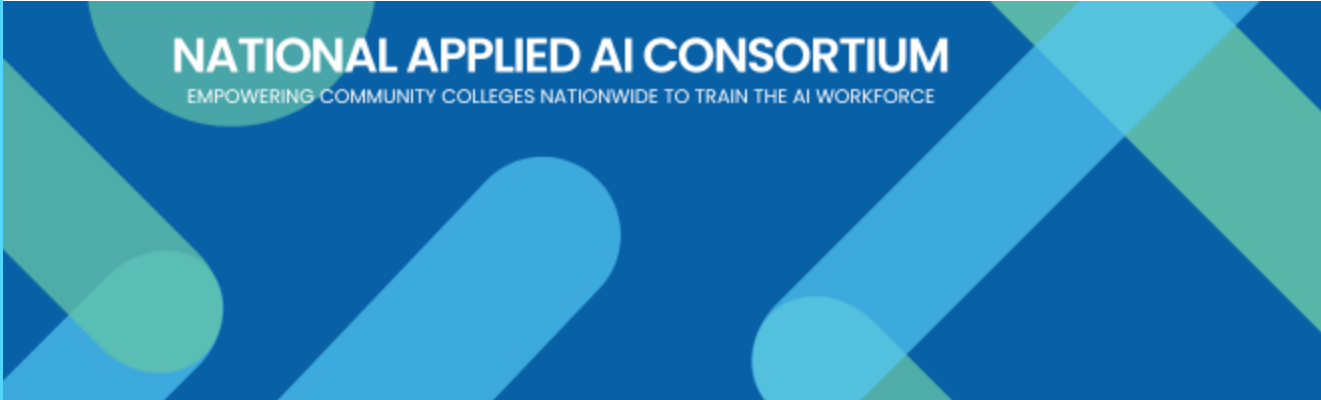
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