

UPCOMING CCPI-CASTS & THOUGHT LEADERS' DIALOGUE WILL FOCUS ON AI AND THE STEM WORKFORCE

To help community college educators deal with the fast-evolving changes generated by artificial intelligence (AI), CCPI-STEM's created a four-part AI in STEM Education series in the fall.

Audience interest was so strong that the CCPI-CASTs at 1 p.m. (Eastern) on March 20 and at 1 p.m. (Eastern) on April 17, 2026, will continue the series with programs that focus on AI and the STEM workforce.

This year's Thought Leaders' Dialogue at 1 p.m. on Friday, February 20, 2026, will focus on the AI workforce competencies of community college STEM graduates. This is the fourth Thought Leaders' Dialogue co-hosted by CCPI-STEM and its strategic partner the [League for Innovation in the Community College](#).

Reserve your place at each of these free virtual events at ccpi-stem.org.

Summaries of three most recent CCPI-CAST episodes on AI are below. See [Presidents Press 15](#) for detailed information about Episode 17 **Using GenAI Responsibly to Develop NSF ATE Grant Proposals**. All CCPI-CASTs — audio, video, and presentation slides — are available at <https://www.ccpi-stem.org/webcasts-podcasts>.

John Sands Demonstrates How to Use AI for Teaching & Learning Improvements

During [CCPI-CAST Episode 18](#), Dr. John Sands demonstrated ways that faculty, staff, and administrators can use artificial intelligence (AI) to work more efficiently.

A professor and chair of the Computer Integrated Technologies Department at Moraine Valley Community College, IL, Sands has served as the principal investigator and co-principal investigator of several ATE grants, including those that funded the [National Center for Systems Security and Information Assurance](#).

Sands currently leads two-day workshops that teach community college instructors how to use AI to create engaging content and improve their assessments. During the CCPI-CAST, he provided an overview of how to use AI to update syllabi, standardize lesson structures, create study guides, and address accessibility compliance.

Sands said using AI to evaluate students' work leads to more individualized assessments, which he considers of paramount importance. "Research basically tells us that if students receive more feedback and more enhanced feedback, in-depth feedback, they tend to do better in classes, they stay in the programs longer, and they feel part of the community, part of the program, and so on," he said.

Sands emphasized the importance of human oversight and proofreading of AI-generated materials. He also touched on ethical considerations of using AI, and explained the options for checking for AI in students' work.

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NAAIC Helps Community Colleges Develop Courses & Degrees to Build AI Workforce

With five years of experience in developing applied artificial intelligence (AI) courses and offering an AI degree program at Miami Dade College, FL, Antonio Delgado shared his expertise during [CCPI-CAST Episode 19](#) to help community college educators respond to students' and employers' demand for AI skills.

"As community colleges, we have the opportunity to do AI workforce development at scale to help every single company get AI talent. And they're desperate for that talent," Delgado said. He is vice president of Innovation and Technology Partnerships at [Miami Dade College](#). He also serves as a co-principal investigator of the [National Applied AI Consortium \(NAAIC\)](#).

Since the consortium started in October 2024 with a grant from the [National Science Foundation's Advanced Technological Education](#) program, it has collaborated with industry partners to educate more than 1,100 community college faculty members around the country—providing more than 10,000 hours of training—to prepare them to teach AI.

The consortium's free professional development programs, mentoring, and online repository of resources, which include curricula developed by the consortium's three partner community colleges, can help community college educators create AI courses and launch AI associate degree programs.

"AI is happening, either we like it or not, [and] community colleges are well-positioned to lead. You just have to believe, and you have to bring along your faculty, you have to bring along your administrators. And the consortium is here to help you along the way....

"We want to help you, we want to empower you. And we believe in you. That's really the solution for the nation," Delgado said.

Sinclair Makes Strategic Effort to Meet Community Needs for AI

Sinclair College's strategic approach to exploring the opportunities and challenges of generative AI was the subject of this [CCPI-CAST Episode 20](#), which features insights from Christopher Prokes, director of [AI Excellence Institute](#) at Sinclair Community College, and Lindsay Tate, associate director of partnerships at the AI Excellence Institute.

In 2023, Sinclair Community College President Dr. Steven Johnson formed a task force to determine what the college should do to address future AI education needs in Dayton, OH.

The task force recommended the college invest in AI professional development for all Sinclair faculty and staff, establish clear academic guidelines and policies, develop AI curriculum and learning opportunities for students, invest in AI technology, develop privacy and security protocols for using AI, and engage key stakeholders in AI initiatives.

The college's \$5 million investment in AI included creating an AI Excellence Institute. It has quickly become a national resource for information on AI-integrated education, pedagogy, and workforce engagement.

Prokes and Tate acknowledged that not everyone on campus is enthusiastic about AI. However, they said their goal is to teach faculty and staff how to use AI. They said it is a high priority for faculty to be able to instruct students to use AI effectively and ethically so students are prepared to meet employers' expectations when they enter the workforce.

"We want people to use AI as a thought partner, not the thing that just helps them get through their daily tasks faster," Tate said, adding that it is important for humans to drive the interactions with AI.

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