

NWPA HIGHER EDUCATION AI SUMMIT



PENNWEST CENTER FOR
ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE
AND EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES

ADVANCING AI CURRICULUM IN HIGHER EDUCATION AND BEYOND



Friday, October 16, 2026

10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

PennWest Edinboro

Baron-Forness Library • 7th Floor, Room 710

10 - 10:10 a.m.

WELCOME AND FRAMING THE SUMMIT

Dr. James Fisher

Interim President, PennWest University

Dr. J. Camille Dempsey

Executive Director, PennWest Center for AI and Emerging Technologies

SUMMIT GOALS

- Build a regional AI curriculum ecosystem
- Share practices and resources across institutions
- Identify opportunities for collaboration and ideation
- Ensure every institution contributes to the conversation
- Prioritize dialogue over presentation
- Identify action-oriented outcomes

PRESENTATIONS

10:10 - 10:40 a.m.

Allegheny College

AI at Allegheny: Navigating a Complex Ecosystem

PRESENTERS

Dr. Ian Binnington

Associate Provost, Allegheny College

ibinning@allegheny.edu

Dr. Lisa Whitenack

Associate Provost & Director of Faculty Development, Allegheny College

lwhitena@allegheny.edu

10:40 - 10:45 a.m.

Break

10:45 - 11:15 a.m.

Erie County Community College

The AI-Assisted Administrator: Lessons from the Launch of Erie County Community College

PRESENTERS

Guy Goodman

Executive Vice President, EC3

ggoodman@ec3pa.org

Dr. Stuart Blacklaw

Dean of Academics, EC3

sblacklaw@ec3pa.org

William Jeffress

Professor of Business and Entrepreneurship, EC3

wjeffress@ec3pa.org



11:15 - 11:20 a.m.

Break

11:20 - 11:50 a.m.

Gannon University

AI in Teaching and Learning: A Multifaceted Approach to Curriculum

PRESENTERS

Dr. Leigh Williams

Associate Dean, Gannon University College of Humanities, Education and Social Sciences

williams243@gannon.edu

Dr. Eric Dart

Director of Liberal Studies and Chairperson, Philosophy and Theology Department

Dart001@gannon.edu

11:50 - 11:55 a.m.

Break

11:55 a.m. - 12:25 p.m.

Mercyhurst University

AI and Education at Mercyhurst University

PRESENTERS

Dr. Christopher Mansour

Associate Professor of Cybersecurity, Chair, Computing and Information Science, Mercyhurst University

cmansour@mercyhurst.edu

Dr. Christy Rieger

Professor of English, Director of Center for Teaching Excellence, Mercyhurst University

crieger@mercyhurst.edu

12:25 - 12:55 p.m.

Lunch and Networking





12:55 - 1:25 p.m.

Penn State Behrend

One Initiative, One Challenge, One Priority

PRESENTER

Dr. David F. Dieteman

*Teaching Professor of Management, Immediate Past Chair, Behrend Faculty Senate,
Penn State Behrend
dfd12@psu.edu*



1:25 - 1:55 p.m.

PennWest University

*From Campus to Community: Building an AI-Ready Future Here
and Beyond*

PRESENTERS

Dr. Alawya Alawami

*Associate Professor of Computer and Engineering Technology, PennWest Clarion
aalawami@pennwest.edu*

Dr. John Ziegler

*Professor, Programs in Educational Leadership, PennWest Edinboro
jfziegler@pennwest.edu*

Dr. Roger Wolbert

*Professor of Mathematics Education, PennWest Edinboro
rwolbert@pennwest.edu*

Dr. J. Camille Dempsey

*Executive Director and Professor, PennWest Center for AI and Emerging Technologies
jdempsey@pennwest.edu*



1:55 - 2:40 p.m.

REGIONAL AI COLLABORATION: FROM CONVERSATION TO ACTION

GUIDING QUESTIONS

- What common needs, challenges, and opportunities emerged?
- Where are the strongest areas of alignment across institutions?
- What could we accomplish together that would be difficult for one institution to accomplish alone?
- What resources, expertise, courses, tools, or practices could we share?
- What could we co-develop regionally?
- What collaborative research, grants, curriculum, faculty development, student initiatives, workforce partnerships, or events should we explore?

SHARE-OUT AND PRIORITIZATION

2:40 - 2:50 p.m.

Closing and Next Steps

2:50 - 3:00 p.m.

Tour of the PennWest Center for AI and Emerging Technologies

3:00 p.m.

Summit Concludes



SPECIAL RECOGNITION AND THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING

NWPA AI SUMMIT PLANNING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Katrina Yeung, *Chief Information Officer, Allegheny College*

Stuart Blacklaw, Ph.D., *Dean of Academics, Erie County Community College*

Leigh Williams, Ed.D., *Associate Dean, College of Humanities, Education and Social Sciences, Gannon University*

Christopher Mansour, Ph.D., *Associate Professor of Cybersecurity, Chair, Computing and Information Science Department, Mercyhurst University*

Dr. Christy Rieger, *Professor of English, Director, Center for Teaching Excellence, Mercyhurst University*

Dr. David F. Dieteman, *Teaching Professor of Management, Immediate Past Chair, Behrend Faculty Senate, Penn State Erie, The Behrend College*

Philip Stuczynski, *Associate Teaching Professor of Finance, Penn State Behrend, Black School of Business*

Jennifer Williams, *Manager of Learning Technology Services, ITS, PennWest University*

John Ziegler, D.Ed., *Professor, Programs in Educational Leadership, PennWest University*

Dr. Stephanie Williams, *Associate Professor, Educational Leadership and School Psychology Department, PennWest University*

Dr. Mary Paniccia Carden, *Dean, College of Education, Arts, and Humanities, PennWest University*

Dr. J. Camille Dempsey, *Executive Director, PennWest Center for AI and Emerging Technologies, PennWest University*

PENNWEST ADMINISTRATORS

Dr. James Fisher, *Interim President*

Dr. Kristy Bishop, *Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs*

Dr. Bob Mehalik, *Associate Provost, Graduate Dean and California Campus Dean*

Anthony McMullen, *Library Director*



CAIET AI FELLOWS

Ghassan Al-Sinbol
Alawya Alawami
Jay Annadatha
Raymond Hsieh
Xiaofeng Li
Ken Martin
Joseph Schwerha
Jennifer Williams
Roger Wolbert
John Ziegler

CAIET GRADUATE ASSISTANTS

Laci Abbey
Rhonda Gardner

CAIET STUDENT AI AMBASSADORS

Dawn Bryer
Rhonda Gardner
Ian Hall
Kelsi Wilcox-Boyles

AUXILIARY OPERATIONS

Kari Althof

AVI FOOD SYSTEMS

Adam Bell

COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING

Bill Berger
Wendy Mackall
Brooke Mays
Bryan Postlewait

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SERVICES

Preston Gollmer
Bradley Peters

ZOOM MODERATION

Jennifer Williams

CAIET ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Jill Stein



MISSION

Through education, credentialing, research, community engagement, and strategic partnerships, the PennWest Center for Artificial Intelligence and Emerging Technologies is a dynamic and inclusive hub for students, faculty, industry, and the broader community to encounter and leverage the transformative power of AI and an ever-changing technological landscape.

VISION

The PennWest Center for Artificial Intelligence and Emerging Technologies, located at an innovative public regional university spanning and serving the entirety of Western Pennsylvania, will be a higher education leader in preparing students, faculty, and community partners to innovate and lead in the adoption and responsible use of AI and emerging technologies.

