NAIRR Pilot

DEMOCRATIZING AI TRAINING AND ACCESS STATEWIDE

January 23, 2026

Jefferson Community and Technical College
Health Sciences Hall, 166 A
9:15 AM - 4:30 PM

AGENDA

9:15 AM	**WELCOME**	**DR. TY HANDY** *President, Jefferson Community and Technical College*
9:20 AM	WORKSHOP GOALS & OVERVIEW, WHAT IS NAIRR?	**CAROLINE LEACH** *Program Manager, Democratizing AI Access & Training Statewide*
9:45 AM	INTRODUCTION TO AI & AI-READY DATA	**AARON MULLEN** *Software Developer, Center for Applied AI*
10:30 AM	DIGITAL INNOVATION, AI PERSPECTIVES, & CYBERSECURITY	**DR. ADEL ELMAGHRABY** *Director of Research, Digital Transformation Center, University of Louisville*
11:30 AM	AI, THE WORKFORCE, & HIGHER EDUCATION	**DR. CHRISTOPHER LEDFORD** *Director of Data and Advanced Analytics, Council for Postsecondary Education*
12:00 PM	**LUNCH BREAK**	*Boxed lunches will be served in the Health Science Atrium downstairs*
12:45 PM	MACHINE LEARNING	**AARON MULLEN** *Software Developer, Center for Applied AI*
1:15 PM	GENERATIVE AI & VIBE CODING	**VAIDEN LOGAN** *Software Developer, Center for Applied AI*
1:45 PM	FOUNDATIONAL MODELS, LLMS, & COMPUTER VISION	**MITCHELL KLUSTY, VAIDEN LOGAN** *Software Developer, Center for Applied AI*
2:45 PM	**BREAK**	*Gather in the community room (Health Sciences 151) for refreshments & networking*
3:00 PM	AI PIPELINES & DEMO	**MITCHELL KLUSTY** *Software Developer, Center for Applied AI*
3:30 PM	APPLIED AI PANEL	**SUBJECT MATTER EXPERTS** *Center for Applied AI*
4:00 PM	**CONCLUSION**	**CAROLINE LEACH** *Program Manager, Democratizing AI Access & Training Statewide*

University of Kentucky
KENTUCKY COMMUNITY & TECHNICAL COLLEGE SYSTEM
KCPE Higher Education Matters

University of Kentucky

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES



ADEL ELMAGHRABY

Adel S. Elmaghraby, PhD, is the Winnia Professor of Computer Science and Engineering and Director of Research for the Digital Transformation Center, and Cyber HIVE Director at the University of Louisville. He has held appointments at Carnegie Mellon University and the University of Wisconsin-Madison and has advised over 60 master's and 40 doctoral graduates. His research spans AI, deep learning, data analytics, medical imaging, visualization, and simulation, with applications in cybersecurity, smart cities and healthcare. He is recognized as a distinguished speaker, a widely published scholar with over 300 publications, and recipient of the IEEE-CS Golden Core Award at the IEEE Computer Society at the 50th anniversary celebration. recipient, he has led international research collaborations and served as president of the Association of Egyptian American Scholars.



CHRISTOPHER LEDFORD

Dr. Christopher Ledford serves as the Director of Data and Advanced Analytics at the Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education (CPE) where he uses data analytics to generate inferences on improving postsecondary affordability, transitions, success, equity, talent, and value in Kentucky. Prior to CPE, he served in teaching and IR positions that grew his passion for serving students. As an institutional researcher, he led award-winning projects that shaped institutional policy around student basic needs, utilization of student communication tools, and improved demographic representation of students among institutional employees. In the classroom, Dr. Ledford enjoyed teaching political science students to be empirical, thoughtful, and civic-minded citizens. At CPE, he continues to serve students by transforming Kentucky postsecondary data into actionable strategies and policies that improve student access to higher education and credentials of value.



CAROLINE LEACH

Caroline Leach is a Data Management Specialist at the Center for Applied AI and Program Manager for Democratizing AI Training & Access Statewide. With a background in physics and experience in ed-tech & nonprofit organizations, her work focuses on project management and prototype development, supporting researchers from concept through successful execution of applied AI projects.



AARON MULLEN

Aaron Mullen is a Software Developer at the Center for Applied AI. He began his work with the group as an undergraduate intern and now holds a graduate degree in Data Science. His expertise includes machine learning and data visualization, working on projects leveraging classification and time series forecasting.



VAIDEN LOGAN

Vaiden Logan is a Software Developer at the Center for Applied AI. With a background in Computer Engineering and pursuing a graduate degree in Computer Science, Vaiden's work focuses on large language models and the DGX computing cluster. He's experienced in building systems that integrate AI across a variety of applications.



MITCHELL KLUSTY

Mitchell Klusty is a Software Developer at the Center for Applied AI. With a background in Computer Science and as a graduate student in Computer Science, his work focuses on the development and application of large language models and computer vision systems, with an emphasis on secure systems design and analysis.

WIFI: KCTCS-GUEST

Website: https://caai.ai.uky.edu/about-us/news-and-events/nairr-pilot-expansion-project/
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