

WKU AI Conference 2026: (Re)imagining What's Possible

March 27, 2026

Time	Session Length	Zoom Room 1	Session Length	Zoom Room 2	Session Length	Zoom Room 3
9:10 – 10:05 AM	25 min	<p>Rethinking Academic Integrity in the Age of AI and Finding Moments to Foster Student's Self-Efficacy Facilitated by: Silvio Polly, Scott Arnett, Donte McGee and Ericka Russell Time: 9:10am-9:35am Description: Inspired by The Opposite of Cheating: Teaching for Integrity in the Age of AI by Tricia Bertram Gallant and David A. Rettinger, this session shares insights from a faculty book club and classroom practice. Rather than framing AI as a policing problem, we examine how course design and classroom culture shape academic integrity and student confidence. Presenters will highlight three approaches they have taken in their own courses: process logs, student-dependent essays/topics, and the commonplace book, along with practical approaches to foster transparency, meaningful learning, and students' self efficacy. Audience: Faculty. Level: Beginning</p>	55 min	<p>From Brainstorming to Bibliography: Teaching Students How to Use AI in All Phases of Writing a Research Paper Facilitated by: Mark Ciampa Time: 9:10am-10:05am Description: Students are already using AI extensively, so why not teach them how to use it effectively and ethically? For several semesters I have taken small steps in teaching students very limited ways to use AI in their research paper, such as allowing them to use AI as a cited source. Now I am instructing them how to use AI from cradle-to-grave, covering all phases of the research paper process. In this presentation I will share how students use AI when writing a research paper, the tools that give me visibility into their work, and their feedback on the process. Audience: Faculty. Level: Beginning</p>	55 min	BREAK
	25 min	<p>First, Do No Hallucinate: Teaching Students to Audit AI in Discipline-Based Writing Facilitated by: Daniel Liddle Time: 9:40am-10:05am Description: This session introduces a writing assignment in which students act as auditors of AI-generated advice within their field of study. Students first conduct an in-depth literature review on a focused topic, developing their own subject-matter expertise. They then prompt an AI tool to generate guidance or recommendations and evaluate the output using predetermined disciplinary criteria. By positioning AI as a subject of inquiry rather than an unquestioned authority, this assignment helps students examine strengths and limitations of current AI systems, practice effective prompting, and distinguish between general and specialized AI tools. The approach can be adapted across disciplines to reinforce research skills, critical evaluation, and responsible AI use. Audience: Faculty. Level: Beginning</p>		BREAK		
		Zoom Room 1 Break			Zoom Room 2 Break	Zoom Room 3 Break
10:20 – 11:15 AM	25 min	<p>Augmenting Assignments with AI Enhancements Facilitated by: Gary Houchens Time: 10:20am-10:45am Description: This session shares a practical approach to integrating AI into course assignments through structured "AI enhancements." Rather than leaving AI use unstructured, students were provided guided prompts and scaffolds to help them engage AI intentionally and responsibly. The presenter will share examples of these enhancements, lessons learned, and strategies faculty can adapt in their own courses to ensure AI supports deeper learning rather than shortcuts it. Audience: Faculty. Level: Beginning</p>	25 min	<p>Considering Public-Facing Chatbots? Consider This! Facilitated by: Charles Plemons Time: 10:20am-10:45am Description: Thinking about launching a chatbot for students, customers, or the public? Join ITS for a fast-paced, 25-minute session sharing real-world lessons from building both internal and public-facing chatbots using Zapier and ChatGPT. We will cover architecture basics, automation workflows, data considerations, security, and common pitfalls. Whether you are exploring AI-powered self-service or refining an existing bot, you will leave with practical insights, implementation tips, and questions you should ask before going live. Audience: Faculty and Staff. Level: Intermediate/Advanced</p>	25 min	<p>Using AI agents to do Complex Tasks Facilitated by: Dipesh Bhattarai Time: 10:20am-10:45am Description: Many professional and academic tasks involve complex, multi-step processes, from gathering data and conducting analysis to generating reports and synthesizing findings. This session demonstrates how AI agents can automate and support these demanding workflows, handling data retrieval, structured analysis, scenario testing, and polished output generation. Through live demonstrations, participants will see how AI agents can reduce manual effort, accelerate complex projects, and enhance analytical depth across disciplines. Audience: Staff. Level: Beginning</p>
	25 min	<p>No Coding Required: How to Build Course-Specific GPTs Facilitated by: Jeremy Logsdon Time: 10:50am-11:15am Description: In this session, participants will learn how to design and deploy a custom GPT to support student learning in their own courses with no coding knowledge required. Participants will explore how to build an AI study tutor, writing coach, or content assistant aligned to specific learning outcomes. The session will cover prompt engineering basics, instructional guardrails, ethical considerations, and practical classroom use cases. Attendees will leave with a clear framework for building a functional, course-aligned GPT and a replicable model they can adapt for tutoring, formative assessment, and student engagement. *Please note that while a ChatGPT Plus membership is not required to participate in this session, participants will need an active Plus subscription in order to actually create and publish a custom GPT. Audience: Faculty and Staff. Level: Intermediate/Advanced</p>	25 min	<p>Building Tomorrow's HR Professionals: Teaching with the AI Tools They Will Use Facilitated by: Dana Henson Time: 10:50am-11:15am Zoom Room 2 Link: https://wku.zoom.us/j/93109811534 Description: This session explores how artificial intelligence is transforming both professional practice and higher education across disciplines. Drawing from a custom AI-integrated course and semester-long implementation, participants will learn how students engage with AI tools through hands-on laboratories that mirror real-world professional applications and learn skills like prompt engineering, data analysis, content creation, and ethical use. The presentation demonstrates how bridging current AI developments with structured, experiential learning prepares students for the rapidly evolving workplace while maintaining critical thinking and ethical judgment. Audience: Faculty. Level: Beginning</p>	25 min	<p>AI as an Advising Co-Pilot: Practical, Ethical, Everyday Applications Facilitated by: Brandy Laster Time: 10:50am-11:15am Description: Artificial intelligence has become part of my daily workflow as an academic advisor—not as a replacement for professional judgment, but as a structured thinking partner. This session highlights practical, ethical applications of AI in advising, including refining student communications, translating complex academic policies, modeling GPA projections, summarizing transcripts and degree audits, and creating structured support plans. Participants will gain replicable prompt frameworks, workflow strategies, and FERPA-conscious guardrails. Designed for beginner and intermediate users, this presentation emphasizes real-world implementation over technical complexity. Audience: Staff. Level: Beginning</p>
		Zoom Room 1 Break			Zoom Room 2 Break	Zoom Room 3 Break
11:30 AM – 12:25 PM	25 min	<p>Using AI to analyze student activity logs in BlackBoard and compare course activity to resulting grades Facilitated by: Steve Parris Time: 11:30am-11:55am Description: I use a free online AI service to analyze student activity logs from BlackBoard in my online course. I then use AI to compare the resulting grades with the student's work habits. The AI will then draft an email based on the results. The email can be supportive for the student with good work habits as well as draw attention to where work habits can improve if the student needs to try harder. The process takes a few seconds to produce an analysis and email ready for me to review and edit. Audience: Faculty. Level: Beginning</p>	55 min	<p>Promoting Critical Thinking Through Student Exploration of AI and Bloom's Taxonomy Facilitated by: Matt Shake Time: 11:30 AM – 12:25 PM Description: As students increasingly rely on AI, it's critical that they learn to recognize its strengths and limitations. This challenge became a learning opportunity for Matt Shake, Professor of Psychological Sciences. Join Matt as he shares how he designed an assignment challenging students to test AI's effectiveness at each level of Bloom's taxonomy. Students submitted the AI-generated output for tasks at each Bloom's level—from remembering to creating—along with their reflections on how useful AI actually was in the process. In this session, Matt shares surprising student insights and provides assignment examples you can adapt for your own courses, with the goal of helping students become critical consumers of AI rather than passive users. This session is perfect for faculty at any level of AI familiarity who want to explore with students whether AI makes their learning "worth the climb." Audience: Faculty. Level: Beginning</p>	55 min	<p>AI-Informed Web Strategy: Driving Student Recruitment Facilitated by: Devin Bell Time: 11:30am-11:55am Description: This session demonstrates how CEBS is integrating AI into its daily web workflow. We will move beyond AI hype to showcase a practical, AI-informed web strategy focused on student recruitment. We'll explore how to use AI to audit accessibility, optimize for "Answer Engines," and translate complex academic processes into high-converting, mobile-friendly content. Attendees will learn how to leverage AI tools to drive student engagement while reducing technical overhead. Audience: Staff. Level: Beginning</p>
	25 min	<p>Deconstructing the Black Box: Mapping AI with Frameworks Facilitated by: Leah Spalding, Natalie Tyree, Kara Glenn Time: 12:00pm-12:25pm Description: Artificial intelligence is shaping creative and academic work across disciplines, but educators often engage it only at the tool level. This session introduces a practical framework for examining AI as a system shaped by people, institutions, infrastructure, and values. Participants will explore how to identify stakeholders, trace intended and unintended consequences, and apply ethical perspectives to AI use in their classrooms. The session models a structured "AI mapping" approach that attendees can adapt to help students think critically about how AI systems operate and whom they affect. Audience: Faculty. Level: Beginning/Intermediate</p>		BREAK		
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12:40 – 1:35 PM	15 min	<p style="text-align: center;">Practical AI Guidance for Students Preparing for Helping Professions Facilitated by: Whitney Cassidy-Caywood Time: 12:40pm-12:55pm</p> <p>Description: This session will discuss a modular approach to teaching students ethical approaches to AI use in the classroom and in the workforce, specifically for those preparing for human services careers. Topics include the basics of ethical and unethical uses in academic settings, professional standards for AI use in human human service settings, and integrating AI guidance into curriculum. Audience: Faculty. Level: Beginning</p>	25 min	<p style="text-align: center;">Seeing What We Miss: Using AI to Improve Curriculum and Assessment Design Facilitated by: Rheanna Piemons Time: 12:40pm-1:05pm</p> <p>Description: As artificial intelligence becomes more integrated into higher education, institutions must consider how it can responsibly support, not replace, faculty expertise. This session explores how AI can assist departments in strengthening curriculum design and assessment practices. Participants will see practical examples of using AI to refine program learning outcomes, map curriculum alignment, identify gaps or redundancies, and synthesize multi-year assessment data into actionable improvement plans. Emphasis will be placed on leveraging AI as a structured partner in continuous improvement. Audience: Faculty. Level: Beginning</p>	25 min	<p style="text-align: center;">Mind? Math? Magic? How Large Language Models Actually Work Facilitated by: Thad Crews Time: 12:40pm-1:05pm</p> <p>Description: Ever wonder what's really happening when ChatGPT responds to your prompt? It's not magic — but it's not thinking either. This session will explain how LLMs really work, including a "peek under the hood" of a large language model running locally on a laptop. Understanding what LLMs are really doing will help you use them more effectively, recognize their limitations, and make better decisions about when to rely on them — and when not to. Audience: Faculty and Staff. Level: Beginning</p>
	15 min	<p style="text-align: center;">The Page Numbers Don't Match: Keeping Human Work in Online Courses Facilitated by: Cort Basham Time: 1:00pm-1:15pm</p> <p>Description: On many assignments requiring specifics from course materials, AI will invent page number citations. This session will show how AI responses become obvious in this way. It will include examples of my assignments and feedback to students when this happens, and how I encourage students that reading, reflection, and connection are human skills worth developing. Audience: Faculty. Level: Beginning</p>	25 min	<p style="text-align: center;">The ChatGPT-Friendly Professor Facilitated by: Kelsey Truax Time: 1:10pm-1:35pm</p> <p>Description: This conference session challenges professors to move from policing AI, to embracing AI as a powerful teaching tool. Attendees will see live demonstrations of how to use platforms like ChatGPT to design course plans, create realistic hypotheticals, and build innovative assignments. Using real classroom examples, this presentation will demonstrate how AI can enhance learning while guiding students toward responsible and ethical use. Participants will also learn how to model effective AI practices themselves, and teach students how to use AI as a supplemental academic resource. Audience: Faculty. Level: Beginning</p>	25 min	<p style="text-align: center;">Better Prompts, Fewer Regrets: How To Use AI And Still Do Your Own Thinking Facilitated by: Jon Williams, Samantha Williams Time: 1:10pm-1:35pm</p> <p>Description: A session that presents a human-centered AI workflow that anyone can use to improve the quality and usefulness of output while protecting originality and critical thinking. Audience: Faculty and Staff. Level: Beginning</p>
	15 min	<p style="text-align: center;">enviRonment and art Facilitated by: Chris Gilly-Forrer Time: 1:20pm-1:35pm</p> <p>Description: Generative AI tools are increasingly used in creative fields to prototype ideas quickly and reduce time and material costs. However, these tools carry significant environmental and ethical implications. This session explores the environmental impact of AI systems, including resource consumption by data centers, and discusses concerns around training data and intellectual property. Participants will learn how to evaluate AI platforms, identify programs trained on ethically sourced materials, and consider practical strategies for more responsible AI use in creative practice. Audience: Faculty and Staff. Level: All</p>				
Zoom Room 1 Break		Zoom Room 2 Break		Zoom Room 3 Break		
1:50 – 2:45 PM	25 min	<p style="text-align: center;">Shake Your Bots Off: Adopting Agency-Style AI Workflows in the Advertising Classroom Facilitated by: Diane McDonald Time: 1:50pm-2:15pm</p> <p>Description: As generative AI becomes standard in advertising and media agencies, advertising education must shift from teaching tools to managing AI-driven workflows. This session spotlights how AD 230 (Digital Tools) has been restructured as agile, pod-based labs, culminating in the AI Optimized Ad Campaign final project. Audience: Faculty. Level: Beginning</p>	55 min	<p style="text-align: center;">Getting Started with OpenClaw: Starting the Age of AI Workers Facilitated by: Mameet Singh Time: 1:50 – 2:45 PM</p> <p>Description: In this hands-on session, you'll get an introduction to OpenClaw, a user-friendly, no-code platform that helps you create AI "assistants" to handle everyday tasks. No programming experience is required. If you can describe what you want to happen, you can build it.</p> <p>We'll walk step-by-step through how AI can read a simple message—like a date, time, and duration—and automatically turn it into a complete scheduling process. Along the way, you'll see how AI can draft emails, send approval requests in Slack, apply simple decision rules, and create calendar events for you. You'll also learn how to keep a "human in the loop" so you stay in control.</p> <p>You'll leave with practical ideas you can immediately adapt for meetings, office hours, student support, event planning, and other administrative tasks. Whether you're brand new to AI or just curious about automation, this session will show you what's possible—and how approachable it really is. Audience: Faculty. Level: Intermediate/Advanced</p>	BREAK	
	25 min	<p style="text-align: center;">Generative AI in Business Education: What Faculty Are Saying Facilitated by: John Erickson, Tong Wu, Patricia Todd, Mariah Yates Time: 2:20pm-2:45pm</p> <p>Description: As generative AI reshapes higher education, business schools face urgent questions about curriculum, policy, and faculty readiness. This session presents results from a college-wide faculty survey examining AI usage, classroom policies, attitudes, competency priorities, and professional development needs. Findings provide a data-driven snapshot of how business faculty are responding to AI's rapid diffusion. We highlight areas of alignment and divergence across disciplines and discuss implications for curriculum design, shared learning objectives, and institutional AI strategy within business schools. Audience: Faculty. Level: Beginning</p>				