



MSU Interdisciplinary Institute on AI Faculty Symposium

March 26, 2026 - SUB Ballroom A

8:30am-9:00am Welcome

- Robert Mokwa, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, MSU
- Brock Tessman, President, MSU
- Doralyn Rossmann, Professor and Dean of the MSU Library and William G. Thomas III, Professor and Dean of the MSU College of Letters and Science

9:00am-10:30am Session 1: AI research (moderated by William G. Thomas III, 4 15-min presentations, 30-mins Q&A)

- Cody James (U. Montana School of Law) - "AI in the Courts: Risks to Judicial Legitimacy"
- Jason Clark (MSU Library) - "A Critical and Speculative Design Artifact: Making Generative AI (GenAI) Trustworthy Using Small Language Models (SLM)"
- John Sheppard (MSU CS) - "Artificial Intelligence Advances Supporting Digital Agriculture"
- Jayne Morrow et al. (MSU QCORE) - "Research and Innovation at the Quantum/AI Interface"

10:30am-10:45am break

10:45am-12:00pm Session 2: AI teaching and learning (moderated by Shannon Willoughby, 4 15-min presentations, 15-mins Q&A)

- John Paxton, Iliana Castillon, Neda Nazemi (MSU CS) - "CS Course: Artificial Intelligence for Everyone"
- Michael Cassens (U. Montana School of Media Arts) - "Examining Responsible Application and Considerations of Generative AI Usage in the Classroom"
- William Culpepper (MSU Art) - "Opening the Door To AI: A Dialogue About the Future with Students"
- Doug Downs (MSU English) - "The End of Meaning in Human Communication"

12:00pm-1:00pm lunch

1:00pm-2:30pm session 3: AI in action (moderated by Doralyn Rossmann, 5-7 mins each with 30-mins Q&A)

- Coltran Hophan-Nichols (MSU UIT) - "AI tools and resources for the MSU community"
- Nathan Lee (MSU Library) - "Creating Accessible PDFs using Open-Source GenAI"

- Kimberli Kearns (MSU Career Services) - “Taming the Tools: Intentional AI Use for Career Readiness”
- David Gilkey et al. (MT Tech Safety) - “Role of ChatGPT in Enhancing Safety Science Higher Education: Assessing the 4Ps of Pragmatism”
- Sara Mannheimer (MSU Library) - “Viewfinder: A Toolkit for Values-driven AI”
- Jessy Griffel (MSU Nutrition) - “Using AI Case Studies to Develop Clinical Decision Making in Dietetics Students”
- David Gilkey et al. (MT Tech Safety) - “Adapting AI and ChatBots in Safety Applications and Education”

2:30pm-3:00pm Networking Break

3:00pm-4:45pm session 4: AI and higher education (moderated by Doralyn Rossmann, 5 15-min presentations, 30-mins Q&A)

- Elizabeth Green (MSU Education) - “AI Image Representation of Readers and Reading Teachers”
- Jess Carroll (MSU Writing Center) - “Meaningful Academic Writing in the Age of AI: Conversations with MSU Students”
- Christian Gilde (UM Western Business & Technology) - “Artificial Intelligence and the Creative Process: A Focus on Convergent Thinking”
- Laura Schlottman, Jason Cummins and Michael Brody (MSU Education) - “Starting with Conversation: A Department-Wide Process for Engaging AI in Education”
- Mariah Stoppolecamp (MSU Univ. Seminars) - “AI in University Seminar Courses: Engaging Students in Creativity and Innovation”

