



AI Summit

On September 19, 2024, the Minnesota STEM Ecosystem and the Minnesota State Advanced Manufacturing Center of Excellence, hosted the AI Education Summit at Bemidji State University. With a focus on equipping educators and STEM program providers with the knowledge and tools necessary to incorporate artificial intelligence (AI) into their curricula, the Summit was designed to prepare students for success in an increasingly digital and AI-driven economy.

As AI continues to shape the future workforce, the demand for AI literacy has never been greater. According to a recent survey conducted by aiEDU, **75% of educators and administrators agree that AI-related materials should be integrated into school lesson plans.** However, many also admitted to limited familiarity with generative AI tools, with **45% of respondents reporting never having used generative AI tools,** despite recognizing their potential impact on education.

The AI Summit aimed to bridge this gap by providing educators with practical strategies for integrating AI into their classrooms. The Summit offered hands-on breakout sessions and opportunities for cross-disciplinary collaboration. Learning sessions were provided by aiEDU, the Northern Lights Collaborative, the Coding School and Project Leo.

The Summit concluded with a panel discussion centered on the theme of "The Impact of CS and AI in Education and Workforce Development." Expert panelists included Dr. Janice Aanenson, Executive Director of the Minnesota State IT Center of Excellence, Aaron Sykes, Assistant Director of the National Center of Autonomous Technology, Valarie Lockhart, Executive Director of the MN Tech Network, and Liz Walsh, Learning Manager at Raspberry Pi. Together, they explored the evolving role of AI and computer science in shaping future workforce needs, discussing innovative strategies to bridge education and industry, foster talent, and build a tech-savvy workforce for Minnesota's future. Participants left the Summit with tangible takeaways, including AI-related curricula, implementation strategies, and access to continued professional development and resources through local and national program providers.

Thank you to our project partners who made this possible!

