



Strategic Horizon Network
Virtual Conference Center
January 31, 2025

Colloquium Theme:
Remaining Relevant with AI in the Age of Individualization

Our Philosophy

Member institutions are the heart of the Strategic Horizon Network, a self-organized learning community focusing on organizational stretch, exploring new trends, and building capacity. Collaboration and leveraging the synergy of the Network to learn, build strength, and support institutional adaptation are its cornerstones.

The environment in which community colleges operate is changing at an ever-accelerating and increasingly complex rate. Social, technological, and political forces are fundamentally altering the educational landscape in ways that are not easily understood. The Strategic Horizon Network believes that unprecedented challenges require unconventional solutions that can only be found through uncommon learning.

Network Design Principles

1. Explore *disruptive innovation* that is ahead of traditional and commonplace thinking to identify new patterns, signals, and trends.
2. Understand creative and effective aspects of *dynamic organizational culture* to adapt insights, evolve traditional models, and inspire growth in culture, programs, services, and systems at member institutions.
3. Analyze all learning opportunities through *equity-minded analysis* to understand the systemic implications for our students, employees, and communities.
4. Foster an *institutional growth mindset* through *team-based learning* and *cross-college idea sharing and collaboration* in the pursuit and execution of innovation and change.
5. Maintain a Network membership that fosters a sense of *familiarity, fellowship, and support among institutions* and its participants.
6. Provide *common learning opportunities through uncommon experiences outside of postsecondary education*.

Background: Remaining Relevant with AI in the Age of Individualization

For the past two decades, one could argue technological change was disrupting every sector *but* education. While higher education saw an increase in online education and related learning management systems, changes on college campuses were a shadow of the change experienced in healthcare, retail, manufacturing and most other sectors of the economy. Anticipating this, the Strategic Horizon Network was designed to look at disruption outside of higher education, but times are changing. While the pandemic turned our entire operation inside out overnight, that shocking change seems like a gentle prelude to what artificial intelligence is and will continue to do to the learning industry.

AI is accelerating at such a pace that the need to understand the emerging future is more important than ever. The traditional paradigm of education is giving way to a more dynamic, empowering model. If engaged and applied appropriately, AI doesn't diminish human potential; it illuminates our most distinctive capacities. With intentional instructional design, AI can liberate educators and students from rote information transfer to cultivating the quintessentially human skills that distinguish us: complex problem-solving, emotional intelligence, creative synthesis, and ethical

reasoning. This isn't about competing with AI, but about engaging with AI through a “human-first” mindset as a powerful tool to amplify our unique human strengths, enabling learners to develop deeper, more meaningful capabilities that technology cannot replicate.

The shift in learning focus starts with textbooks that drive an outsized portion of the student experience with publishers increasingly using AI to enhance personalized learning, streamline content delivery, and provide real-time feedback for students and educators. In fact, they’re already beginning to use AI to go beyond simple text-based content and assessments.

Prometric, the world’s leading adaptive assessment company, recently purchased EdPower, a cloud-based solutions provider for the K-12 market. Prometric was recently acquired by the same private equity firm that owns Houghton-Mifflin-Harcourt textbook publishers, which creates a formidable alignment of assets to leverage AI in new ways to amplify learning and dramatically alter the student experience. This program will combine the insights of AI thought leader, Todd McLees, and a panel of amazing leaders doing incredible things with AI at the outer horizon of learning. Together they will stretch our thinking and challenge us to elevate how we think about, engage, and use AI to benefit ourselves, our students, and our colleges.

Learning Outcomes - At the conclusion of the program, participants will be able to:

1. **Apply:** apply their understanding of AI to develop strategies for integrating AI technologies in educational settings, promoting personalized learning and administrative efficiency.
2. **Understand:** understand the fundamental shifts occurring as the result of AI transforming the textbook industry that will have dramatic consequences for teaching and learning in the years to come.
3. **Analyze:** analyze the impact of AI on accessibility, equity, and student outcomes in higher education, fostering a deeper understanding of the nuanced implications.

Please join us for a fascinating combination of speakers that will emphasize how to engage with AI in ways that build healthy habits to advance human flourishing; provide insights into where AI advancements are heading in the coming year; and ways in which AI is disrupting education and the learning industry in general.

Friday, January 31, 2025

10:30-11:45 a.m. (EST) – *We Have No Moat: Staying Relevant in the Age of Abundant Intelligence*, Todd McLees, CEO, HumanSkills.AI.

AI capabilities are advancing at an exponential pace—o3, DeepSeek, and Grok 3 are just the beginning. As we push toward Artificial General Intelligence and beyond, the gap between human expertise and machine intelligence is narrowing. The real question is: Are we preparing people to flourish in a world of abundant intelligence?

Community colleges have a critical role to play. Traditional education models, built for incremental change, must be reimagined for a world where intelligence is abundant and the value of uniquely human skills is increasing. This session will explore the latest AI advancements, the myths and realities of AGI, and the steps community colleges should take to ensure students and the workforce develop the ability to work effectively alongside ever-smarter AI systems.

12:00-1 p.m. (EST) – Break

1:00-2:15 p.m. (EST) -*Sorting Through the Hype: Personalizing Learning with AI.*

- Kevin Baird - Chief Experience Officer, Prometric
- Aoife Dempsey – Senior VP for Product Management, Houghton-Mifflin-Harcourt
- Victoria Pu – CEO & Co-Founder of Pace AI

Take a peek around the corner to see how AI is truly individualizing learning in ways that will take a moment to fully absorb for most of us. Perspective-expanding examples will be shared through brief presentations followed by an extensive discussion with Q&A.