

PRAIRIE Launch Event

Pioneering Responsible AI for Research, Innovation & Education

University of Nebraska–Lincoln



Schedule

- 11:30-1:00 Kickoff Lunch** – Welcome remarks from Jennifer Nelson (Interim Vice Chancellor, Office of Research & Innovation), Lance Perez (Dean, College of Engineering), Kathy Farrell (Dean, College of Business), and Mark Stone (Director, Prairie Initiative)
- 1:00-2:00 Panel: The Future of Work in an AI-Transformed World**
- 2:15-4:15 Workshops** – Join your selected track (see below)
- 4:30-4:45 Wrap-Up** – Workshop highlights, next steps, and how to stay involved
- 5:00-6:30 Social & Networking** – Don't Panic Labs, 330 S. 21st St
sponsored by Google

Workshop Tracks

A. Research & Innovation with AI: Explore how AI is transforming the research landscape, from literature reviews and data analysis to scientific discovery.

Facilitators: Mark Stone & Mubarak Abu Zouriq

B. Productivity with AI: Practical AI for everyday work: writing, communication, analysis, and workflow automation.

Facilitators: Tareq Daher & Hilary Kasel

C. Teaching & Learning with AI: Explore the future of AI in course design, academic integrity, and preparing students for an AI-enabled world.

Facilitators: Asa Stone & Derek Heeren

Venues

Main Event: Willa Cather Dining Complex, 530 N 17th St.

Social: Don't Panic Labs, 330 S 21st St, Suite 200 (~5 min drive). Park on the east side. Enter on the south side, just east of The Mill Coffee.

Thank you for support: Google, Don't Panic Labs, MathWorks, Nelnet, Bayer and Hudl



<http://prairie.unl.edu/launch>

Panel: The Future of Work in an AI-Transformed World

Discussion Panel: The Future of Work in an AI-Transformed World

What does it mean to work, learn, and lead in an era of rapidly advancing AI? Our panelists bring perspectives from industry, academia, and student life to explore how AI is reshaping careers, organizations, and the skills that matter most.

Panelists

Mark Riley, Moderator Associate Dean, UNL College of Engineering. Background in biological and bioprocess engineering; leads college-wide research strategy and faculty development.

Josh Jones – Nelnet Data science leader focused on applied machine learning and automation. Develops AI-enabled tools that help teams work with large knowledge bases while protecting sensitive information.

Derek Nordgren – Hudl Director of Engineering building products that connect sports programs with their communities. UNL computer engineering and Raikes School graduate with a decade of experience scaling Hudl's platform.

Santosh Pitla – University of Nebraska-Lincoln Professor of Biological Systems Engineering and Associate Head for Research & Innovation. Leads work on agricultural robotics, automation, and digital agricultural systems.

Bobby Brauer – Bayer Crop Science Technology leader in geospatial and field-data engineering. Modernizes how large agricultural datasets become operational insights through cloud-enabled infrastructure.

Will Greenwood – MathWorks Principal Engineer supporting engineering and computing education worldwide. Ph.D. in Civil Engineering. Former faculty member at San José State University.

Hilary Kasel – Google Account Executive with Google Private Sector supporting government and education partners with cloud and AI-enabled modernization. Focuses on workforce development, skills, and applied cloud adoption in mission-driven contexts.

Jean Claude Niyomugabo – UNL Graduate Student Studies agriculture, agribusiness, and food systems with a focus on AI communication and responsible use. An active voice on learning, leadership, and AI.

Feedback and Get Connected

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Thank you for the coordination support: Office of Research & Innovation, College of Business, and College of Engineering

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