

FOR BUSINESS, COMMUNITY & HIGHER EDUCATION LEADERS

# Build Southwest Virginia's AI-Ready Workforce, Together

## Southwest Virginia AI Student Leadership Symposium

■ Wednesday, Oct. 28, 2026 ■ Leaders: 11:45 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. ■ SWVA Higher Education Center, Abingdon



### THE QUESTION AT THE CENTER

*How can schools and employers prepare young people to use AI with skill, judgment and purpose — and strengthen Southwest Virginia in the process?*

## SYMPOSIUM THEMES



### Workforce Readiness

How AI is reshaping industries and workplaces, and the skills our future workforce needs.



### Responsible AI

Candid talk on risks and concerns, and on using AI with judgment and purpose.



### Student Voice

Hear from students how AI is shaping their learning, creativity and career goals.



### Regional Partnership

Schools, employers, higher education and community partners working toward shared goals.

## OBJECTIVES

- 1 Bring the industry view:** how AI is changing your sector, your workplace and the roles you hire for.
- 2 Define the skills that matter:** what students should focus on now to be ready to join your workforce.
- 3 Turn one day into a lasting coalition:** a sustained K-12, business and higher education partnership on AI.
- 4 Leave with a call to action:** practical next steps for talent and opportunity in Southwest Virginia.

**Join us at 11:45 a.m.** Business and community leaders do not need to attend the morning Student Summit. **Bring a charged laptop.**

## THE DAY AT A GLANCE

|                |                                                                               |
|----------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Morning</b> | <b>Student Summit + K-12/business leader roundtable</b>                       |
| <b>11:45</b>   | <b>Leaders lunch &amp; student presentations</b> at your table                |
| <b>1:00</b>    | <b>Keynote</b> from a local business or community leader                      |
| <b>1:15</b>    | <b>Design Challenge:</b> live <b>#AppalachiaBuiltThis</b> build with students |
| <b>2:30</b>    | <b>Reflection &amp; next steps</b> for the region                             |

## Your perspective **belongs in the room.**

Help connect what students learn today with the opportunities they will find in the workforce tomorrow. **Lunch provided. Space is limited.**

**Register:** [forms.gle/6jD1e5kJvmFaMZaY6](https://forms.gle/6jD1e5kJvmFaMZaY6)



SCAN TO REGISTER