

Approaching AI Summit to Showcase Visionary Regional Leaders in Artificial Intelligence

25+ Presenters and Exhibitors Addressing the Societal and Sociological Aspects of Artificial Intelligence.

The **Approaching AI Summit** at Southern Oregon University in Ashland – March 21-22 – brings together a panel of 18 regional thought leaders, entrepreneurs and educators to explore the multifaceted impact of artificial intelligence on society. The event is designed to inspire community discussions and provide actionable insights into the rapid integration of AI in Creativity, Education, Work, and Life.

The evening program on Friday, March 21 at SOU's Meese Auditorium will feature a "meet the presenters" wine reception followed by two panels on creativity and AI.

The full-day program on Saturday, March 22 at SOU's Rogue River Room features moderated panels on education, work, and life in this time of rapid AI expansion.

Following the panels, a community forum will engage audience questions, concerns, and reflections on AI. The Saturday program includes several exhibitor tables staffed by local groups and organizations.

Confirmed Presenters: Dr. Rick Bailey, SOU President • Micah Blacklight • Nisha Burton • Adam M. Curry • Dr. Daniel DeFreez • Dr. Kim Freeze • Sen. Jeff Golden • Paul Hynek, MBA • Ian Ingram • Rep. Pam Marsh • Aaron Moffatt • Thor Muller • Dr. Casey Shillam • Heather Stafford • Marta Tarantsey • Teighe Thorsen • Dr. Randy Weber, RCC President

Opening Keynote: Heather Stafford. "The Future of Work is Human"

As the CEO of Rogue Workforce Partnership, Heather Stafford brings a wealth of experience in workforce development and innovation. Her leadership has been instrumental in aligning educational programs with industry needs, fostering economic growth, and preparing the workforce for the challenges of an AI-driven economy. In her keynote address, Stafford will delve into strategies for empowering communities and businesses to adapt to the evolving technological landscape.

Closing Keynote: Dr. Randy Weber. "Reflections and Next Steps as a Region"

Serving as the President of Rogue Community College since July 2022, Dr. Randy Weber has focused on enhancing educational pathways and strengthening community partnerships. With extensive experience in strategic planning and student affairs, Dr. Weber is dedicated to creating opportunities that lead to higher-paying jobs and a robust regional workforce. His closing remarks will address the critical role of education in equipping individuals with the skills necessary to thrive in an AI-augmented world.

Event Highlights: Five Moderated Panels, Community Forum, Exhibitors, Reception and Lunch Buffet

FRIDAY PROGRAM at Meese Auditorium, 5-9 PM

- o ***Wine & Small Bites Reception***
- o ***Creating with AI in Commerce, Industry and Education*** - From Answer Engines to Prediction Engines: Human Innovation's Next Leap with AI
- o ***Creating with AI in Arts & Media*** - Redefining Creativity: Is AI a Tool, a Crutch, or a Revolution?

SATURDAY PROGRAM at Rogue River Room, 9 AM – 6 PM

- o ***Learning with AI*** - Beyond Answers: Cultivating Curiosity and the Art of Inquiry in the Age of Machine Learning
- o ***Working with AI*** - Empowering the Workforce: AI as a Partner, Not a Replacement
- o ***Living with AI*** - A Proactive Community: Shaping AI's Role to Serve Humanity and Society
- o ***Community Forum*** – Live Audience Q & A with all the panelists
- o ***Lunch Buffet*** – Gourmet Salad and Sandwich Bar

The Approaching AI Summit is not a tech conference; it's a community forum designed to educate, engage, and empower participants. Attendees will have the opportunity to interact with policymakers, industry leaders, and educators, gaining

a comprehensive understanding of AI's current applications and actionable insights for future possibilities.

About the Architects of the New Paradigm Conference Series:

Since 2015, the Architects of the New Paradigm Conference Series brings together leading visionaries, thinkers, and activists to explore innovative and practical solutions to the world's critical challenges.

The ANP Conference Series is produced by RVML Community Resource Center, a 501c3 nonprofit in Ashland, OR since 2001.

Discounted advance tickets are available online until March 18, includes meals and free parking. Get Info and Tickets: ANPconference.com

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