

SUMMER TECHNOLOGY INSTITUTE 2024



August 6 – 8, 2024



EMPOWERED: HARNESSING AI FOR TRANSFORMATIVE TEACHING AND LEARNING

STRAND DESCRIPTION

The primary goal of this strand is to empower K-12 educators to effectively leverage AI as a dynamic tool for enhancing teaching and learning experiences. Central to achieving this objective, the workshop offers focused sessions that explore essential AI concepts and tools, illustrating their practical applications in lesson and unit planning. A significant emphasis will be placed on using AI to personalize and differentiate instruction, thereby meeting the diverse needs of learners. The workshop will also address some of the ethical considerations of integrating AI into the educational landscape. Participants will be actively involved in a series of hands-on activities, collaborative workshops, and discussions, all tailored to facilitate the direct application of AI technologies in their unique educational settings. These interactive elements are designed to guide educators in developing practical, relevant, choice-driven projects that integrate AI tools and methodologies into their curriculum.

STRAND LEADERS



Nadia Rioux

Social Studies/Science
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Neal Rioux

English Teacher
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STRAND TAKEAWAYS

By the end of our three days together, each attendee will have acquired a personalized skill set for designing innovative, AI-enhanced instructional plans, ensuring their teaching methods remain in step with the rapidly evolving field of educational technology. To support this goal, our work will culminate with a “visioning session” that provides a platform for participants to present their projects and to discuss the implications of AI’s evolving role in education.

STRAND OUTCOMES

This strand is designed to empower K-12 educators by guiding them to pursue practical and relevant choice-driven projects. These projects will strategically incorporate AI tools and methodologies into lesson planning, with the aim of personalizing learning experiences and enhancing student engagement. Participants will learn to use AI technologies that align with educational goals, design curriculum that leverages AI for improved learning outcomes, and understand the ethical implications when integrating AI into teaching. The strand will also empower educators with a comprehensive skill set for creating adaptive, AI-enhanced instructional plans that keep pace with this fast-evolving aspect of educational settings.

PRESENTER BIOGRAPHIES

Nadia Rioux

Nadia Rioux brings over 15 years of teaching experience to her role at Tripp Middle School in Turner, Maine. As a social studies and science teacher, she strives to empower her students through engagement and innovation. Holding a Master of Education in Curriculum, Assessment, and Instruction from the University of Maine, along with a Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education from Arizona State University, Nadia is dedicated to a teaching approach that is both effective and sustainable, aiming to prevent teacher burnout. She has explored the use of AI in education, incorporating tools like ChatGPT-4, MagicSchool.ai, and Diffit to enhance learning experiences. Nadia's approach focuses on creating an inclusive learning space where every student has the opportunity to succeed. She looks forward to sharing practical insights on integrating AI tools to support engaging and effective teaching.

Neal Rioux

Neal Rioux teaches English at Yarmouth High School in Yarmouth, Maine. He has almost twenty years of teaching experience, which began with teaching middle school students at a performing arts school in Phoenix, Arizona, and then shifted to working with high school students when he returned to his native state of Maine. He earned a B.A. in English Language and Literature from the University of Virginia, holds an M.Ed in Secondary Education from Arizona State University, and is currently pursuing an Ed.S. (Educational Specialist) in Instructional Technology at the University of Maine. Like many teachers, he has been experimenting with the use of AI, exploring its practical applications to tasks like differentiating students' reading and writing. He is passionate about empowering educators to be their best, which is why this opportunity to work with educators and professionals at the Summer Technology Institute is so meaningful.