AI Strategy Research Working Group

To effectively integrate AI into our institution, we are establishing three focused working groups. Each group will address and consider AI strategy in specific areas: Administration and Operations, Research, and Teaching and Learning. Each working group will be co-led by a faculty member and a staff member or administrator to ensure diverse perspectives and comprehensive understanding. Working groups will be open to all faculty members and staff (with supervisor approval) with attention paid to ensuring appropriate representation across schools, colleges, and units depending on the committee topic. This effort aligns with our university's strategic plan by prioritizing institutional goals related to innovation, inclusivity, and academic excellence through a deliberate and coordinated approach to AI.

The goal of these working groups is to help CU Denver ensure a holistic and strategic approach to integrating AI into our institution. By focusing on administration and operations, research, and teaching and learning, we can address the unique needs and opportunities in each area, fostering innovation and efficiency. The co-leadership model, pairing faculty members with staff or administrators, supports diverse perspectives and expertise, promoting inclusive and well-rounded solutions. Engaging a wide range of community members in these groups allows for a comprehensive representation of the community's interests and concerns, ensuring that the AI strategy reflects the collective vision and addresses the needs of all members. This collaborative effort not only enhances the quality and relevance of our AI initiatives but will also support a sense of ownership and commitment across the institution. There will also be ACE (Access and Campus Engagement) and OIT expertise incorporated in each team.

Leaders of each working group will serve as representatives on a steering committee that will also meet regularly to ensure that the groups are learning from one another’s efforts. Training and educational opportunities on data and risk, ethical best practices for AI, and other topics requested by the working group members will be made available for working group members to engage in. When possible, trainings and educational opportunities may also be offered to the larger campus community.

Objectives:

- Conduct a SWOT analysis of AI use cases in research.
- Identify and document AI-related resources relevant to research activities.
- Develop a list of policies that need to be drafted to guide AI integration in research practices.
- Create a description of possible uses cases for how AI can be integrated into this area.

Key Focus Areas:

- Leveraging AI for data analysis and predictive modeling.
- Enhancing research methodologies with AI tools.
- Ensuring ethical standards and integrity in AI-driven research.

Deliverables for Each Working Group

1. **SWOT Analysis:** A report detailing the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats of AI integration within their focus area.
2. **AI-Related Resources Documentation:** A curated list of AI tools, platforms, and resources relevant to their area of focus.
3. **Policy Recommendations:** A detailed list of policies that need to be drafted, including proposed guidelines and standards for AI implementation.
4. **Use Cases:** A description of possible uses cases for how AI can be integrated into each area.

Timeline

- **Kickoff Meetings:** Mid- to late February
- **Final Report Submissions:** TBD

Communication and Collaboration

The working groups will meet bi-weekly to discuss progress, share insights, and collaborate on their deliverables. Leadership for each working group will also meet together to communicate updates across the groups and ensure alignment with the institution's overall AI strategy.

Research Working Group Charge

AI has the potential to revolutionize research by enabling advanced data analysis, predictive modeling, and innovative methodologies. Integrating AI into research practices can enhance the quality, speed, and scope of our research endeavors, positioning our institution at the forefront of academic innovation. AI-driven research can lead to groundbreaking discoveries, attract funding, and foster interdisciplinary collaboration. Staying current with AI advancements ensures our research capabilities remain competitive and relevant in a rapidly evolving academic landscape. Developing an AI strategy in research not only improves our capacity for cutting-edge inquiry but also reinforces our commitment to ethical standards and integrity in scientific exploration.

Guiding Questions:

1. What are the current strengths and weaknesses of our research capabilities?
2. How can AI enhance research methodologies and outcomes?
3. What are the ethical best practices that should be considered in this area?
4. What opportunities can AI create for advancing our research goals?
5. What threats or challenges might arise from integrating AI in research?
6. What AI tools and resources are available to support our research activities?
7. What policies are necessary to guide ethical and effective AI use in research?