AI Learning Journey for Faculty Microcredential

The AI Learning Journey is a stackable, three-tiered microcredential pathway designed for educators who seek to integrate generative AI responsibly and ethically into their instructional practice. The pathway supports professional growth from basic experimentation to advanced leadership and advocacy. Each badge aligns with the NACE Career Readiness Competencies ensuring that participants develop transferable skills relevant to teaching, learning, and workforce readiness.

Tiers:

1. Badge A – Emerging AI User: Foundational understanding and experimentation.
2. Badge B – Practicing AI User: Consistent, ethical classroom integration.
3. Badge C – Leading AI User: Program-level leadership, mentorship, and advocacy.

Emerging AI User

The *Emerging AI User* badge recognizes faculty who demonstrate beginner-level, responsible use of generative AI to design scaffolded lesson materials aligned with learning objectives, adapt content for diverse learners, and create formative checks for understanding. Earners develop a small portfolio showcasing how AI was applied ethically and reflect on verifying accuracy, accessibility, and bias.

Aligned NACE Competencies

- Technology – Uses AI tools ethically to enhance instructional efficiency.
- Critical Thinking – Evaluates AI outputs for accuracy, fairness, and instructional fit.
- Communication – Clearly conveys information through adapted learning materials.
- Equity & Inclusion – Designs accessible, culturally responsive activities.
- Career & Self-Development – Engages in professional learning to expand digital fluency.

Passing Criteria:
Attend 3 AI study-circle meetings · Complete Tier 1 Checklist · Submit portfolio · Achieve *Competent* or higher in all areas.

Rubric

Competency	Definition	Evidence	Developing	Competent	Accomplished
Technology	Uses AI tools ethically to enhance instruction.	Lesson plan including one AI-generated scaffold (worksheet, guide, or practice task).	Uses AI for idea generation only; limited verification.	Integrates AI to design scaffolded materials with verification step.	Designs purposeful learning supports, documents ethical use.
Critical Thinking	Analyzes AI outputs for accuracy, bias, and relevance.	Reflection (300–500 words) describing AI use and verification.	Notes some strengths/weaknesses of outputs.	Critically reviews AI results; adjusts materials.	Demonstrates nuanced reasoning and bias awareness.
Communication	Adapts content clearly for multiple learner levels.	Two versions of activity for different skill levels.	Adapts without clear alignment to objectives.	Produces organized, level-appropriate materials.	Creates multi-level, scaffolded supports with rationale.
Equity & Inclusion	Ensures accessibility and fairness.	Formative prompts reviewed for bias or accessibility.	Acknowledges inclusivity; minimal application.	Designs accessible content; notes fairness checks.	Embeds inclusive design throughout; anticipates bias.
Career & Self-Development	Applies professional learning to teaching.	AI Checklist + attendance at 3 study-circle meetings.	Participates inconsistently.	Applies learning to instruction.	Reflects on growth and next steps.