

CAL POLY AI SYMPOSIUM 2026, 2-DAY AGENDA

Wednesday, May 6th, 12pm – 7:30pm

- 12:00 PM – Faculty Discussion on AI Policy & Practice, Facilitated by Ava Wright Thomas (2 hours)
- 02:00 PM – AI for Strategic Business Practice, Presented by Stan Van Vleck & Dean Flemming (2 hours)
- 05:30 PM – Networking Reception, The Carrisa (Not yet confirmed) (2 Hours)

Thursday, May 7th, 8:30am – 5pm

- 08:30 AM – Registration & Light Refreshments
- 09:00 AM – Welcome & Framing (Overview of themes; purpose of symposium)
- 09:05 AM – Provost’s Welcome (Institutional priorities for AI)
- 09:12 AM – Keynote I Introduction
- 09:15 AM – Keynote I - Dr. Julie Carpenter, AI and Human Interactions (30-min talk/10-min Q&A)
- 09:55 AM – Keynote II Introduction
- 09:58 AM – Keynote II - Dr. Rama Akkiraju - NVIDIA (Virtual) (30-min talk/10-min Q&A)
- 10:38 AM – Intro to Students
- 10:40 AM – Student Voices, 3 speakers (5 min each)
- 11:00 AM – Faculty Panel Introduction
- 11:03 AM – Faculty Panel (Moderated discussion, 50 minutes)
- 11:53 AM – Chancellor’s Office Perspective, Ed Clark (10 minutes)
- 12:03 PM – Lunch & Networking
- 12:45 PM – Industry Panel: AWS, Apple, Google (Emerging careers, Career readiness, Life-long learning)
- 01:30 PM – Transition Break
- 01:40 PM – Concurrent Sessions – Block 1 (Tracks A, B, C, D running simultaneously)
- 02:35 PM – Transition Break (Movement between rooms)
- 02:43 PM – Concurrent Sessions – Block 2 (Tracks A, B, C running simultaneously)
- 03:38 PM – Transition Back to Chumash
- 03:46 PM – Keynote III Introduction
- 03:49 PM – Keynote III - Industry Speaker - Mike Abbott (20-min talk)
- 04:09 PM – Keynote IV - Noyce Distinguished Speaker, Dr. Chris Clark (35-min/10-min Q&A)
- 04:54 PM – Closing Synthesis & Call to Action (Institutional next steps)
- 04:59 PM – Reception