

**December 15, 2024**

**Board Members:**

Dr. Allison Freed, ITEC program coordinator, UCA

Kirsten Wilson, Instructional Design Coach- Oklahoma University Education Services, ITEC program alum

Ann Broyles, Online Training Specialist, ITEC program Alum & Adjunct Professor

Steve Bonds, Engineering and Mathematics Teacher at Bentonville West High School & ITEC program alum

Samantha Carpenter, Virtual Arkansas Core Campus and Adjunct Principal

Lisa Russell, Technology Coordinator Arch Ford Education Co-Op

Julie Kubal, 7th Grade ELA at Rogers Public Schools & ITEC program alum

**Technology Trends and Concerns in K-12 and beyond**

Teachers and administrators are concerned that instructional technology, while improving efficiency, will lead to increased workloads. They worry that time saved by technology will be filled with more assigned duties. Key concerns also include:

- **Effective online learning engagement:** Finding ways to keep students engaged in online environments remains challenging.
- **Meaningful technology integration:** Educators want to use technology for learning, not just for using it. There should be a purpose for technology integration.
- **Future job skills:** CTE teachers focus on equipping students with adaptable skills relevant to the evolving job market, including the ability to learn new programs and strong soft skills quickly.
- **Meaningful professional development:** Educators need practical training on using technology, including AI.
- **Student creation:** The goal is to empower students to be creators of technology, not just passive consumers.

**ITEC program Recruitment**

- **Broaden Target Audience:** Expand marketing beyond educators to include professionals in other fields, such as corporate training, healthcare, technology, nonprofits, and government. Highlight the value of instructional design skills in these sectors.
- **Strengthen Educational Partnerships:** Collaborate with Arkansas online schools and districts by offering professional development, custom training, and scholarships.
- **Enhanced Marketing:** Showcase alumni success stories (especially in diverse fields), utilize social media (LinkedIn), partner with community colleges, and target

tech/healthcare professionals.

- **Flexible Program Options:** Offer stackable micro-credentials, bootcamps, and hybrid/asynchronous learning formats.
- **Leverage ISTE Certification (if approved):** Bundle ISTE certification with graduate coursework.
- **Industry Engagement:** Offer internships and capstone projects with local businesses. Explore employer sponsorships for employee enrollment.
- **Focus on Emerging Technologies:** Incorporate AI, AR/VR, and learning analytics into the curriculum.
- **Community Building:** Create a network of students, alumni, and faculty for resource sharing and mentorship. Host professional learning communities (webinars, meetups, conferences).
- **Additional Certificates:** To attract potential master's students, explore offering in-demand certifications (e.g., AI in education) as standalone options.
- **Internship Opportunities:** Partner with local businesses to provide hands-on internships.
- **Blended Learning Focus:** Consider tracks specializing in blended learning models.
- **AI Integration and Ethics:** Incorporate AI tools and training while emphasizing critical thinking skills and addressing ethical considerations.

## Artificial Intelligence

The ITEC program should integrate AI into its curriculum to prepare students for an AI-driven future. AI integration in the ITEC program should focus on the following areas based on the feedback from the ITEC advisory board:

- **Cybersecurity and Ethical Use:** Students need training on responsible AI practices, digital citizenship, netiquette, and cybersecurity risks associated with AI, including data protection strategies.
- **AI as a Tool:** Hands-on projects should allow students to explore AI's potential for enhancing creativity and innovation while understanding the importance of human qualities like empathy and critical thinking.
- **Critical Examination of AI:** Students should analyze real-world challenges posed by AI, such as deepfakes, academic dishonesty, and biases in AI.
- **Redesigning Assessments and Instruction:** The program should shift towards authentic assessments that minimize reliance on flawed AI detection methods. Instruction should balance AI-assisted learning with traditional approaches.
- **Leadership and Collaboration:** Students should be prepared to lead professional development sessions on AI for various stakeholders and learn to develop AI policies and guidelines collaboratively.
- **Community Engagement:** Training should be extended to families and communities to foster a shared understanding of AI in education and the workplace.

The urgency to incorporate AI into education is clear. Educators should teach students how to use AI tools effectively and ethically, integrating them into the learning process.

This includes exploring tools like Magic School and Formative, understanding best practices for AI use in education, and addressing ethical considerations such as AI bias and academic integrity.

Strategic thinking about the potential of AI to enhance student engagement and learning is essential. Providing hands-on experience with various AI platforms, prompt engineering, and real-world applications, along with reflecting on AI experiences, is invaluable. Students should also learn to critically evaluate AI platforms and content, and even develop an AI Acceptable Use Policy. Furthermore, educators must stay informed about the rapidly evolving landscape of AI to effectively guide their students.

### **How are educators using AI?**

Educators leverage AI tools like ChatGPT, Claude, Brisk, and Magic School for a wide range of tasks, including:

- **Content Creation:** Outlining research papers, writing letters (including recommendations), summarizing text, refining tone, creating social media posts, generating mission/vision statements, crafting email and workshop content, developing lesson plans, designing challenges and test questions. They've even used AI to create educational songs and podcasts.
- **Instructional Enhancement:** Generating student examples, gamification questions, personalized vocabulary lessons, and providing feedback on student writing. They also use AI to facilitate deep dives into texts and create engaging learning experiences.
- **Professional Development:** The individual uses AI for course creation and research and also leads professional development workshops for other educators on the effective use of AI in education.

(Summary organized with the help of Google Gemini AI.)