

A close-up, angled view of a laptop keyboard with several translucent, glowing icons floating above it. The icons include a target, a play button, a graduation cap, gears, a magnifying glass, a person at a presentation, and an open book.

# World EdTech & Innovation Summit

12-13 FEBRUARY 2026  
BOSTON, MA

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# World EdTech & Innovation Summit

📅 12-13 FEBRUARY 2026

📍 BOSTON, MA



Register Now & Save USD 300

## SPEAKER LINE-UP



**Kyle Bowen**  
Deputy CIO,  
Enterprise Technology  
Arizona State  
University



**Mary Ellen Wiltout**  
Director of Online and Blended  
Learning Initiatives, Lecturer in  
Digital Learning, Biology  
Massachusetts  
Institute of Technology



**Ian Tosh**  
Director of Academic Technology  
Services and Operations  
Harvard University



**Greg Heiberger**  
Interim Dean of the Van D. &  
Barbara B. Fishback Honors College  
South Dakota State  
University



**Lauren Barbeau**  
Assistant Director, Learning  
and Technology Initiatives  
Georgia Institute  
of Technology



**Elizabeth McAlpin**  
Director of Educational  
Technology Research - NYU IT, RIT  
New York University



**Joe Way**  
Executive Director,  
Digital Spaces  
UCLA



**Helen Chu**  
Assistant Vice Provost,  
Learning Spaces & Support  
Stanford University



**Kanchan Thakar**  
Assistant Director,  
Education Technology  
Fordham University



**Rob Curtin**  
Director, Data & AI Global  
Edtech Ecosystem  
Microsoft Education



**John FitzGibbon**  
Associate Director  
of Digital Learning Innovation  
Boston College



**Kim Manturuk**  
Executive Director of the Center  
for Excellence in Teaching  
Learning and Online Education  
Georgia State University



**Mark Green**  
Vice President Institutional  
Effectiveness and Technology  
Holy Family  
University



**Zachary Snyder**  
Idea Garden Program Curator,  
Student Technology Centers,  
Learning Spaces  
Indiana University



# World EdTech & Innovation Summit

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Register Now & Save USD 300

Following ten successful editions of the **Innovative Learning Spaces Summit**, we are excited to announce the launch of the **World EdTech & Innovation Summit**, taking place on **12-13 February 2026** in **Boston, MA**. This summit will spotlight the latest advancements, strategies, and technologies shaping the future of higher education. From AI-driven course design and immersive professional skills labs to smart campus infrastructure and student-centered digital ecosystems, the event will explore how technology can transform learning environments to boost engagement, foster innovation, and elevate students' outcomes. The summit will bring together senior-level university leaders, educators, EdTech innovators, and other industry leaders to collaborate, exchange ideas, and uncover actionable solutions that redefine the educational experience. Join us to explore inspiring case studies, participate in engaging discussions, and gain practical insights that will empower you to lead digital transformation and pedagogical innovation at your institution!

## Key Practical Learning Points

- Designing Engaging Virtual and Hybrid Classrooms That Promote Active Participation
- Implementing AI-Powered Tools to Automate and Enhance Course Design and Assessment
- Leveraging Chatbots and Virtual Agents to Improve Student Support and Administrative Workflows
- Applying Learning Analytics to Tailor Course Content and Improve Student Outcomes
- Building Inclusive Co-Creation Processes That Involve Students in Course Development
- Scaling Active Learning Techniques Across Faculties to Increase Engagement and Retention
- Embedding Innovation Into Teaching Norms to Foster a Culture of Continuous Improvement
- Developing Immersive Labs for Practical Skills Training Across Diverse Disciplines
- Leading Digital Transformation Initiatives to Build Internal Capacity and Align Strategy With Pedagogy



## Take a Look at Our Innovative Learning Spaces Summit



## Who Should Attend

This summit will bring together Directors, Heads, Managers, Principals, Deans, Professors, and Senior Level Executives involved in:

- Higher Education
- Digital and Blended Learning
- Educational Development and Innovation
- Learning Technology and EdTech Solutions
- Student Experience and Support Services
- Learning Analytics and Data Science
- Teaching Innovation and Pedagogical Adoption
- Immersive Learning and Simulation Labs
- Smart Campus Infrastructure
- Library and Information Services
- Space Planning and Facilities Management
- Research and Educational Policy
- & Others!

-  **X 12+ Industry Case Studies**
-  **X 20+ Hours of Networking:** forge new professional contacts during numerous networking breaks between sessions & during the special Networking Dinner on Day 1
-  **X 100+ Pages of the Post-Summit Materials** documentation package available upon demand\*

## Did You Know?

94% of universities worldwide now use at least one learning management system (LMS) as a core part of their teaching infrastructure, making digital learning the new normal in higher education.

Over 60% of faculty say EdTech tools have significantly increased student engagement, particularly in hybrid and active learning environments.

More than 80% of universities now integrate AI-powered tools into at least one area of teaching, assessment, or student support, marking a major shift toward intelligent learning systems in higher education.

More than 70% of universities use learning analytics to track student progress and personalize support, helping to improve retention and academic outcomes.

### Sources:

Dahlstrom, E., Brooks, D. C., & Bichsel, J. (2014). The current ecosystem of learning management systems in higher education: Student, faculty, and IT perspectives. EDUCAUSE.

Number Analytics. (2023, December 14). 7 Statistical gains from EdTech in modern educational classrooms. Number Analytics. Retrieved August 12, 2025

HolonIQ. (2024). AI in Higher Education: Adoption Trends and Impacts.

Satpathy, A. (2023, July 29). The use of big data and analytics for improving student outcomes and personalized learning. Medium. Retrieved August 12, 2025

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# DAY 1

12 FEBRUARY 2026

World  
EdTech &  
Innovation  
Summit

08:30 Check-In and Welcome Coffee ☎

09:00 Opening Address from the Chair

09:10 "Breaking the Ice" Speed Networking Session

Meet your colleagues, exchange business cards and have a maximum number of 1-on-1 talks in a short amount of time! Our Speed Networking session will help you to form those initial relationships early, find out who is facing the same challenges as you and get a nice preview of what a longer conversation could bring!

## DIGITAL-FIRST LEARNING ECOSYSTEMS

09:50 AVAILABLE SPONSORSHIP SLOT



### Empowering Educators and Students Through Data-Driven Insights

Discover how data analytics and AI-powered platforms are enhancing teaching strategies and student support systems. Learn about innovative approaches to leveraging behavioral data for personalized learning experiences and improved engagement across diverse campus communities.

10:30 Case Study: 🔍

### Building Bridges, Not Just Tools: Faculty Partnerships in AI and Active Learning Implementation

- Showcase a collaborative approach to implementing AI-powered tools and active learning technologies with faculty as key partners.
- Share successes and roadblocks in scaling new tools across faculty.
- Provide insights on faculty development, trust-building, and cross-functional collaboration.
- Offer a framework for implementing new technologies in alignment with institutional mission and teaching culture.

**Kanchan Thakkar**

Assistant Director, Education Technology  
Fordham University



11:10 Morning Coffee and Networking Break ☕

11:40 Case Study: 🔍

### Scaling Excellence: Using AI-Powered Tools to Integrate High-Impact Teaching Practices Across Core Curriculum

Strategic Implementation at Scale: Learn how Georgia State University is systematically integrating high-impact practices into every core curriculum class, impacting 50,000+ students through technology-enhanced faculty development and AI-powered pedagogical tools.

Data-Driven Impact Assessment: Explore concrete student learning outcomes and success metrics demonstrating how technology-scaled high-impact practices improve retention, engagement, and academic achievement across diverse student populations.

Replicable Framework for Institutional Transformation: Gain actionable insights and a proven model for embedding innovation into teaching norms while building internal capacity for sustained pedagogical transformation at your own institution.

**Kim Manturuk**

Executive Director of the Center for Excellence  
in Teaching Learning and Online Education  
Georgia State University



12:20 Case Study: 🔍

### Beyond Traditional LMS: Using Prediction Markets and Collaborative Technologies to Enhance Classroom Participation\*

Explore how innovative digital platforms like prediction markets and collaborative tools can transform traditional learning management systems to foster deeper student engagement and active participation. This session will showcase practical strategies for integrating technologies such as G Suite and Canvas to create dynamic, interactive classrooms where students are co-creators in their learning journey. Attendees will gain insights into enhancing student interaction, promoting real-time feedback, and leveraging data-driven methods to enrich the educational experience beyond conventional LMS capabilities.

**John FitzGibbon**

Associate Director of Digital Learning Innovation  
Boston College



13:00 Business Lunch 🍽

## AI & STUDENT-CENTERED INNOVATION

14:00 Case Study: 🔍

### HigherEd Tech Innovation: Finding Meaning Through the Noise, from Twitter to VR & AI, 20 Years of Progress

- Vision creation and mission alignment
- Culture change
- Progress in resource constrained environments
- Context matters (D1, R1 aspiring university in the rural Great Plains)

**Greg Heiberger**

Interim Dean of the Van D. &  
Barbara B. Fishback Honors College  
South Dakota State University



14:30 Case Study: 🔍

### Understanding AI Agents (Not the 007 Kind): How Agentic AI Can Support Academic Outcomes and Simplify Administration for Student Pathways

Join Microsoft for an informative – and fun – session on Agentic Architecture. Whether you're managing spreadsheets, maintaining servers, prepping a class lecture, or committing code to a repo, AI agents can make your life a lot easier. We'll demonstrate how Microsoft 365 Copilot speeds up daily tasks for everyone, how GitHub Copilot accelerates coding and testing for developers, and how organizations can fine-tune their own agentic AI models to better engage campus communities. By the end of this session, you'll understand how the autonomous capabilities of AI agents are transforming the way we work and learn. It's up to you whether to keep them a secret.

**Rob Curtin**

Director, Data & AI Global Edtech Ecosystem  
Microsoft Education



15:00 Case Study: 🔍

### AI as a Catalyst for Inclusive, Personalized, and Ethical Education: A GenAI Calculus Tutor Case Study

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is reshaping global education, offering transformative solutions to long-standing challenges of access, efficacy, and fairness. This case-based presentation examines how advanced AI, particularly Generative AI, can be strategically integrated to foster equitable learning outcomes through four interrelated pillars: personalization, inclusion, ethics, and literacy.

Drawing from ongoing institutional initiatives in AI-enhanced tutoring, adaptive assessment, and ethical design, this session explores how AI-driven systems personalize learning through real-time feedback and adaptive pathways that reflect students' individual progress and learning preferences. Emphasizing ethical AI integration, the presentation underscores the importance of transparency and data protection guided by Explainable AI (XAI) principles. Finally, it advocates for AI literacy among educators and learners, ensuring that technology strengthens—rather than supplants—human teaching and judgment.

Participants will leave with practical frameworks and implementation strategies for aligning AI innovation with educational equity, institutional values, and learner empowerment.

**Elizabeth McAlpin**

Director of Educational Technology  
Research - NYU IT, RIT  
New York University



15:30 Afternoon Tea and Networking Break ☕

15:50 Case Study: 🔍

### Leveraging AI to Improve Instructor Engagement with Student Feedback

Transform student evaluations into actionable insights for teaching growth! CTB-FIT is an AI tool designed to process feedback through five evidence-based teaching dimensions. FIT's AI summaries help instructor focus on meaningful themes in feedback rather than isolated negative comments. Aggregated FIT reports allow leadership to more easily identify a unit's overall teaching strengths as well as needs for training and support.

**Lauren Barbeau**

Assistant Director,  
Learning and Technology Initiatives  
Georgia Institute of Technology



16:20 PANEL DISCUSSION 🗨

### Panel Discussion: The Future-Ready University – How Digital Infrastructure Will Shape the Next Decade

Join leading experts as they explore how evolving digital infrastructure is set to transform higher education in the coming years. This panel will examine key trends such as campus-wide connectivity, data-driven decision-making, and the integration of emerging technologies to create flexible, resilient learning environments. Attendees will gain insights into strategic investments and collaborative approaches necessary to build universities that are agile, inclusive, and ready to meet future educational challenges.

17:00 Chair's Closing Remarks and End of Day One

18:00 Networking Dinner 🍷

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08:30 Check-In and Welcome Coffee 

09:00 Day Two Opening Remarks from the Chair

## SMART CAMPUSES & DIGITAL STUDENT EXPERIENCE

09:10 AVAILABLE SPONSORSHIP SLOT



### Transforming Campus Connectivity: Innovations in Smart Infrastructure

Explore how emerging technologies are reshaping campus networks and infrastructure to create seamless, connected learning environments. This session highlights advancements in IoT, predictive analytics, and integrated digital services that support both academic success and operational efficiency.

09:50 Case Study: 

### Building UCLA's Smart Campus: Integrating Technology, Space, and Strategy

In this session, Dr. Joe Way explores UCLA's journey toward becoming a truly smart campus, one that leverages integrated systems, data-informed decision-making, and user-first design to transform the student and faculty experience. Learn how UCLA Digital Spaces is redefining classroom modernization, campus operations, and digital transformation through scalable infrastructure and cross-departmental collaboration.

**Joe Way**  
Executive Director, Digital Spaces  
UCLA




10:30 Case Study: 

### Technology Enabled Experiences and the Future of Learning Spaces

- Re-imagine learning spaces as collaborative experiences designed for the learner
- Engaging students and faculty in the design and innovation process
- Explore practical examples from ASU of experience driven spaces for XR, creativity and collaboration

**Kyle Bowen**  
Deputy CIO, Enterprise Technology  
Arizona State University



10:00 Morning Coffee and Networking Break 

11:30 Case Study: 

### From Segments to Strategy: Empowering Decision Making and Learning Space Design with Data

Explore how to leverage data and stakeholder feedback to design classrooms that foster academic community, address instructional needs, enhance space utilization, and maximize institutional investment. This case study on Stanford Classrooms Reimagined will spark engaging discussions and provide practical insights for learning space planning that attendees can implement in their own institutions.

**Helen Chu**  
Assistant Vice Provost, Learning Spaces & Support  
Stanford University



12:00 Case Study: 

### The Idea Garden: Building a Culture of Confident Creators

- The core problem addressed is twofold: first, that expensive technology often sits idle due to lack of engagement or instruction. Second, that users—especially students—frequently feel intimidated or afraid of breaking something
- Central argument is that play-based learning, especially when paired with intentional facilitation, can help dissolve these fears and foster meaningful tech exploration
- Designed to bridge the gap between simply having access to equipment and actively using it to empower users.
- Focuses on fostering a mindset shift: from fear and hesitation to creative ownership and community

**Zachary Snyder**  
Idea Garden Program Curator,  
Student Technology Centers, Learning Spaces  
Indiana University



12:30 Case Study: 

### Enhancing Digital Learning at Scale: Leveraging Online Tools to Support Teaching, Engagement, and Student Success

Join this session to learn more about practical insights from the strategic use of online tools to support teaching and learning. We will explore how institutions can implement and manage digital tools at scale, streamline support systems for faculty, improve accessibility, and enhance the overall learning experience. The presentation will also highlight lessons learned, operational considerations, and effective approaches for integrating online platforms into the academic ecosystem.

**Ian Tosh**  
Director of Academic Technology  
Services and Operations  
Harvard University



13:00 Business Lunch 

14:00 Workshop 

### Building a Unified Digital Ecosystem: Bridging EdTech Silos Across the Institution

In this hands-on workshop, participants will explore strategies to break down fragmented EdTech systems and create a seamless, integrated digital ecosystem across their institution. Through case studies and collaborative exercises, attendees will learn how to align technology platforms, data sources, and stakeholder needs to foster collaboration between departments and enhance the overall learning experience. The session will provide practical tools for overcoming common barriers to integration, promoting interoperability, and driving institution-wide digital transformation that supports both faculty and students.

14:30 Case Study: 

### Designing Learning From Anywhere: Scaling Transformative Education Through Online and Blended Innovation

Faculty and institutions engaged in innovative teaching are driving a paradigm shift—transforming isolated classrooms into dynamic, boundaryless learning environments. This presentation will explore how robust online and blended learning frameworks can be strategically designed to empower instructors, foster student agency, and enhance learning outcomes. Attendees will gain insights into building scalable, inclusive models that blend synchronous and asynchronous engagement, leverage adaptive technologies, and enable seamless transitions between virtual and in-person experiences—ultimately placing pedagogy at the center of digital learning innovation.

**Mary Ellen Wiltout**  
Director of Online and Blended Learning  
Initiatives, Lecturer in Digital Learning, Biology  
Massachusetts  
Institute of Technology



15:00 Case Study: 

### AI Personas That Empathize and Strategize: Designing Human-Centered Agents for Innovation

- **Persona Design from Rich Data & Phenomenography**

Draw on interviews, focus groups, and phenomenographic methods to craft personas that capture student goals, frustrations, and perspectives in their own words.

- **Empathy Mapping to Surface Emotional Insight**

Use empathy maps ("Thinks, Feels, Says, Does") to structure what students think or feel but may not articulate publicly.

- **Scenario Testing with AI Personas**

Simulate how different personas (e.g., a working parent, a neurodiverse learner) might interpret assignment prompts or course instructions.

- **Strategic Insight Beyond Data Dashboards**

Traditional analytics show what students did; personas help explain why.

**Mark Green**  
Vice President Institutional  
Effectiveness and Technology  
Holy Family University



15:30 Chair's Closing Remarks and End of Summit

# Spotlight On Our Speakers

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**Rob Curtin**  
Director, Data & AI Global Edtech Ecosystem  
Microsoft Education

Rob has been deploying technology in education for over 30 years. Beginning with IBM in 1988 he implemented the first classroom networks in the Boston Public Schools and joined Microsoft in 1991 - before Excel had the AutoSum button. In the 30 years since first joining Microsoft Rob has been a two-time EdTech entrepreneur, spending a decade working on the Exeter Student Information System (1995-2004), and co-founding Pip Learning Technologies in 2014 providing cloud identity and student privacy services to K-12 school districts. Rob has held both US and global roles at Microsoft, always focusing on education.

Rob received a B.S. from Northeastern University, his favorite sport is women's soccer, and he deeply appreciates his wife for tolerating his travel schedule - and now, maybe even more for tolerating him at home.



**Mary Ellen Wiltrout**  
Director of Online and Blended Learning Initiatives,  
Lecturer in Digital Learning, Biology  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Mary Ellen leads the execution of the digital learning strategy for the Department of Biology at MIT. Mary Ellen applies her teaching experience, PhD in biology, and knowledge of the learning sciences to transform the biology curriculum at MIT in collaboration with the faculty and instructional team. She trains and mentors instructors, postdoctoral fellows, and students, manages digital learning projects for the department, including open online courses and hybrid learning experiences, and conducts research on the design of digital learning experiences. She and her team created three of the massive open online courses (MOOCs) on the list of the best online courses of all time according to Class Central. She is also a founding member and senior co-leader of the cross-departmental Digital Learning Lab of MIT Open Learning. Before returning to MIT, Mary Ellen taught at Harvard University after earning her PhD in Biology from MIT.



**Kyle Bowen**  
Deputy CIO, Enterprise Technology  
Arizona State University

Kyle Bowen is Deputy CIO at Arizona State University, where he leads strategic university efforts for effective uses of technology to advance institutional growth. Kyle guides a portfolio of disciplines such as enterprise AI, learning experience and disruptive innovation. Formerly the director of Teaching and Learning with Technology at Penn state, and director of informatics at Purdue University, he is experienced in shaping institutional strategies that help students meet their learning goals through innovative technologies. Kyle is an experienced entrepreneur and frequent speaker on the role of technology to change education. He has co-authored and edited more than 20 books in the areas of design, online development and usability, and his work has appeared in the New York Times, USA Today and the Chronicle of Higher Education.



**Lauren Barbeau**  
Assistant Director,  
Learning and Technology Initiatives  
Georgia Institute of Technology

Lauren Barbeau, Ph.D., is passionate about enhancing the value for and quality of teaching. As the co-author of *Critical Teaching Behaviors* and the forthcoming book *Peer Observation Made Practical for Higher Education*, Lauren advocates for academic culture shifts that better identify, foster, evaluate, and reward effective teaching. She currently serves as the Assistant Director of Learning and Technology Initiatives in the Center for Teaching and Learning at Georgia Tech.



**Helen Chu**  
Assistant Vice Provost,  
Learning Spaces & Support  
Stanford University

Helen is the Assistant Vice Provost of Learning Spaces and Support at Stanford University. She co-authored *Stanford Classrooms Reimagined*, the University's master plan for classrooms and informal learning spaces. She manages university classrooms and informal learning spaces as well as student technology support in the residence halls and campuswide. Prior to joining Stanford University, Helen served as the Chief Academic Technology Officer, the Associate Dean of Libraries, and the Director of Academic Technology at the University of Oregon; the Director of Library IT and Digital Services at California Polytechnic San Luis Obispo, and Associate Director of Web Development and Strategy at Columbia University. Helen recently completed a Master of Information degree with a concentration in Data Science from Rutgers University and a Master's and Bachelor's from UCLA in French Language and Literature.



**Greg Heiberger**  
Interim Dean of the Van D. &  
Barbara B. Fishback Honors College  
South Dakota State University

Dr. Heiberger's 20 years of innovation at higher education includes curricular, co-curricular, and outreach programming. His professional career spans 5 years in student affairs, 10 years as pre-med advisor/instructor, and for the past 7 years he has served as Associate Professor & Coordinator of the accelerated master's in Human Biology and Associate Dean in the College of Natural Sciences. He currently serves as interim Dean of the Van D. & Barbara B. Fishback Honors College and helps to lead the campus AI task force as it develops a vision and framework to support students, faculty, and staff. His recent research projects include a social listening study exploring the change in STEM career sentiment throughout the COVID-19 pandemic and is the PI for an National Science Foundation funded project titled: *The Wokini Undergraduate Biology Education Network*.

In 2022, SDSU was named one of the first 10 Metaversity campuses in the US. Greg currently leads SDSU's Metaversity initiative and additionally he has cultivated internal and external investment in VR initiatives supporting over 150 headsets deployed in physical VR labs, and a mobile VR lab project aimed at engaging regional rural communities in STEM activities and careers through VR. His team has developed 3D spatial recordings for human cadaveric anatomy education, conducted one of the first RCT's in VR anatomy education, and his PhD student and her team have created a VR app for introductory biology curriculum that has been shown to improve student's understanding of structure and function in cellular biology.



**Kanchan Thaokar**  
Assistant Director, Education Technology  
Fordham University

Kanchan Thaokar is the Assistant Director for Educational Technology at Fordham University, where she leads digital learning initiatives that enhance teaching, student engagement, and institutional strategy. With a background in finance, audit, and information technology, she brings a cross-functional perspective to educational innovation. Kanchan specializes in implementing AI tools, active learning strategies, and inclusive technologies that align with both pedagogy and mission in higher education.



**Mark Green**  
Vice President Institutional  
Effectiveness and Technology  
Holy Family University

Dr. Mark Green serves as the vice president for institutional effectiveness, technology, and innovation at Holy Family University. He has extensive experience in strategic planning, AI, data analytics, assessment, and data governance in higher education.

Prior to joining Holy Family, Dr. Green held administrative and teaching roles at Drexel University and was recognized for excellence in service and instruction. He has served as a site evaluator for the Middle States Commission on Higher Education since 2016, supporting accreditation and quality assurance across the region.

At Holy Family, Dr. Green leads strategic planning, institutional research, assessment practices, and technology initiatives that drive improvement and data-informed decision-making. He partners across departments to align academic and administrative operations with the University's mission.



**Kim Manturuk**  
Executive Director of the Center for Excellence  
in Teaching Learning and Online Education  
Georgia State University

Dr. Kim Manturuk is Executive Director of Georgia State University's Center for Excellence in Teaching, Learning, and Online Education, where she leads transformational initiatives serving 50,000+ students and 3,000+ faculty. A nationally recognized expert in educational innovation and AI integration in higher education, she has pioneered programs including an Inclusive Access textbook initiative that saves students over \$500,000 per semester and leads the integration of high-impact practices across all core curriculum classes. She holds a Ph.D. in Sociology from UNC Chapel Hill and an MBA from UNC Wilmington.



**Zachary Snyder**  
Idea Garden Program Curator,  
Student Technology Centers, Learning Spaces  
Indiana University

Passionate about helping people connect with emerging technologies in creative and meaningful ways. I lead an open, collaborative space that combines traditional makerspaces with the guidance of a lab. My work focuses on making tools and information accessible while empowering students, faculty, and staff to explore, experiment, and innovate—often through play.



**Elizabeth McAlpin**  
Director of Educational Technology Research - NYU IT, RIT  
New York University

Dr. Elizabeth McAlpin is the Director of Educational Technology Research at NYU Information Technology, where she leads scholarly research initiatives that enhance teaching and learning through innovative technological strategies. Her work is central to NYU's strategy for improving educational experiences and pedagogical practices that are validated by research across the university. Dr. McAlpin and her team collaborate with faculty across various departments to implement, study, and publish research on the impact of technology-enhanced teaching methods. Her specific research focus includes: Generative AI, Virtual Reality and Immersive Technology, and Multimedia applications. Dr. McAlpin's expertise is built on a strong academic foundation, holding a Ph.D. in Educational Communication and Technology from NYU Steinhardt and an Ed.M. in Instructional Design and Technology from Teachers College, Columbia University.



**Joe Way**  
Executive Director, Digital Spaces  
UCLA

Dr. Josiah Way is the Executive Director, Digital Spaces at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), known as a revolutionary visionary and innovator in the audiovisual industry. As the leading educational technology thought leader, Joe was recognized as the 2019 AV Professional of the Year, 2023 AV Living Legend, 2008 Businessman of the Year, and is named to multiple top industry and influencers lists, including the 2024 global Top 100 Innovators and Entrepreneurs, 2024 Who's Who in America, 2023 Top 50 UC Professionals, and 2019 and 2022 Top 30 Higher Ed IT Leaders lists. He is a highly sought keynote speaker and writer, most acclaimed for his innovative design of the technology standard for hybrid instruction and business development within the higher ed vertical. Joe is the cofounder of the Higher Education Technology Managers Alliance (HETMA) and Higher Ed AV Media, host of the Higher Ed AV Podcast, and writer of the Business of AV monthly column. Dr. Way authored the bestselling book, *Producing Worship*, and is a regular contributor to multiple leading AV-industry publications, while also serving on numerous corporate and higher education advisory boards. Joe has over 30 years' experience in education, technical production and the arts, and organizational leadership and management. He has been featured in *Forbes Magazine*, the *Wall Street Journal*, *ABC* and *PBS Television*, *Yahoo News*, and consulted for high profile organizations like the United Nations, US Department of Education, and over forty Fortune 500's. In his free time, Joe enjoys cruising the lake on his boat with family and friends, golfing PGA West, and perfecting his Traeger meat-smoking techniques. Oh, and he once won his fantasy football league.

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