Education and Workforce Development Subcommittee Meeting

May 2nd, 2025

Artificial Intelligence Task Force Meeting

Attendees: Magda Balazinska, Kelly Fukai, Sumayo Hassan, Senator Matt Boehnke, Vicky Tamaru, Steve Staso, Elena Garrison, Annie Brown, Richard Varn, Leslie Clark, Jeremiah Miller, Wayne Holland, Elizabeth Wheat

* The meeting began with introductions and meeting reminders. The facilitator starts the conversations with the first question asking broadly how AI impacts the workforce and anticipation of impact.
* A point is shared about the development of policies around using LLMs in a streamlined manner but also being cognizant of biases integrated in data. The LLMs can be a useful tool but humans are still needed to for quality assessment.
* A comment is made drawing an analogy between AI and a human intern. The AI has some helpful uses but lacks understanding of intricacies that a tenured professional might have.
* An additional point is made of evaluating the LLM to think critically about the generated information that is given to the user.
* A comment is shared about “prompt engineering” being a pathway of a new track of engineering. Its challenge is creating the most useful tailored prompting for the LLM that allows you to get the responses needed. An additional comment is made about the need to retain information.
* A meeting member makes a point of the general conundrum of what is lost to have the AI tackle sophisticated tasks and the loss of skills to workers.
* A question is asked about the pathways available for upskilling workers and a point is made of bringing more attention to the programs available at community colleges. Further investment can make this possible with additional scholarships to students/workers that demonstrate need or interest.
* A comment is made about thinking about resource allocation and responsibility of funding partnerships to support workforce development and education with AI. An emphasis is made about the need of broadband access.
* A comment is made reminding people the ability of libraries being a tool that people can readily access especially with broadband access.
* A suggestion is made about potentially piloting a public and private partnership. A further comment is made about restructuring higher education to reflect and track skills that jobs in the AI industry reflects.
* A comment is made about how degrees are useful in the early degree area for students to gain understanding about the landscape, but a granular understanding of skills is useful to professionals further along in their career.
* A meeting member makes a point that later professionals use online companies to learn and connect rather than a structured traditional effort.
* A point is made that low-wage workers often interact with AI being used to them in their workplace. Part of the issue is considering protections for the worker.
* A meeting member points to learning from historical introductions of new technologies to the workforce. And to think critically about limiting workforce impacts as new technologies are adopted.