

Industry & Innovation/Climate & Energy
Artificial Intelligence Task Force
Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Sumayo Hassan, Kelly Fukai, Steven Polunsky, Melissa Hutchins, Magda Balazinska, Francois Baneyx, Rose Feliciano, Patrick Connor, Sue Kane, Beau Perschbacher, Kathy Orellana

- The meeting began with introductions and a reminder of meeting agreements. Meeting co-chair Kelly Fukai begins to share their presentation.
- The meeting co-chair mentions how the Seattle area has a high percentage of AI jobs in the metro area. The presenter goes on to explain how the rankings are established and informed. A closer look is given to state metrics which continues to show Seattle as the highest concentration of AI startup related to the space.
- The presenter continues to show the numbers of investors and the stage funding for startup in the area. Demonstrates, that investors in Washington tend to invest in the early stages of startups. There is a healthy amount of international and out of state funding as well.
- There is further explanation of the R&D investment in the state such as UW, WSU, Fred Hutch, etc.
- A meeting member asks from the information if the startups in Washington move to other locations. The presenter explains that there is also entrepreneurial nature of creating companies and scaling and then being bought.
- A meeting member makes the point that the data of AI related jobs should be included workers of data centers that have heavy central Washington representation. An additional point is made about how the AI potential of the state's flagship industries haven't been leveraged.
- A comment is made about how the lack of awareness of specific issues relating to industry and how that can be remedied with connections with the industry. A point is made of the challenges to connect these spaces to due burdens of access, specifically geographical.
- A comment is made asking about how to address the challenges of female founders in the pre-seed funding stage as they lack access to critical funding that allows them to progress.
- A question is posed to folks about how to support venture growth in Washington.
- A comment is made about the talent pool in the state being great, but the structural needs exist to match the pool's need in capital.
- A comment is made explaining the challenges in the pre-seed round for female founders. Such as recommendations to leaving the state for other areas with more funding opportunities.
- A point is made about the needs for "friends' networks" to support the state's AI innovation space.
- A point is made about the needs to have investment from the space by state investment but acknowledging the current budget situation. A point is made of support from the larger tech organizations geared towards the smaller tech companies.

- There is emphasis on the connection of supporting the AI industry but the needs in the conversation of the fiscal challenges and the support of the clean energy sector and data centers.
- A point is made about the need for cloud infrastructure by research entities in the state and the large cloud providers in the state. This is identified as an opportunity for connection.