

Industry & Innovation and Education & Workforce Joint Subcommittee Meeting
Washington State Artificial Intelligence Task Force
6/4/2025

Attendees: Sumayo Hassan, Kelly Fukai, Chanel Hall, Ronald Lethcoe, Yuki Ishizuka, Joni Gutierrez, Magda Balazinska, Brynn Brady, Leslie Clark, Paula Sardinas, Jeremy Winn, Richard Varn, Kimberly Hauge, Neal Luna, Steve Wimmer, Jay Yang, Misha Cherniske, Vicky Tamaru, Jason Verduzco, Marguarite Becenti, Rose Feliciano, Sarah Bland

- The meeting began with brief introductions and a question was posed to the group about skills employers are searching for new graduates to have as they enter the workforce.
- Kelly Fukai, co-chair, shares the recent data and findings around new job posting that employers post and the skills recent graduates share.
- Paula Sardinas, co-chair, shares her perspective on employers that she represents. She shares that businesses are searching for individuals that are AI literate but understand the ethical choices of potential plagiarism or submitting work that is LLM generated.
- Magda Balazinska, co-chair, shares some aspects of teaching computer scientists and engineers. Coding is a smaller part of their job, but larger design and skillsets are taught to these students.
- A meeting member shares the lack of guidance from employers as to what AI skills they are searching for.
- An additional meeting member shares statistics of a summary published by a group of the skills related job and degree type. Artificial intelligence is continually stated as the top skill.
- Vicky Tamaru, subcommittee member, mentions how many business leaders forget that AI is a tool and mistakenly assign it as something greater. This leads to greater challenges and losses to the business as they invest in a tool with high expectations.
- An additional meeting member shares the importance of soft skills that students should have to prepare for the workforce that employers still need, and how those skills compliment the AI that that they would interact with.
- The meeting co-chair underscores the importance of soft skills broadly across the workforce and acknowledges that it has been sidelined in the AI conversation.
- A discussion question is asked about if educators and programs are adequately preparing students for AI job market. The meeting co-chair shares the importance of deploying resources to educators.
- A meeting member shares the challenges beyond AI that educators are facing with strain on resources, lack of support, and historically low employment. There are a lot of technical skills that is being impressed upon faculty burdened with other requirements of professional development.
- A meeting member stresses the point of faculty learning the technology is important because they teach students the ethical manner of using this technology.

Faculty are often limited in time which creates a challenge of developing quality training.

- It is shared by a meeting member that faculty have faced similar challenges in the past the importance is credentialing the training for faculty. The process of credentialing creates incentives for educators and students alike to align with skills that they'll need in the workforce.