From Pencils to Pixels: Navigating Transformation in Education

Spring 2025 Summit

Day 1

Welcome

Branch Alliance
for Educator Diversity

Agenda

Day 1

Welcome and Connector

Keynote

Introduce Hackathon

Surfacing Opportunities for Innovation

Affinity Voting

Closing

Who We Are

Be Curious
Be Brave

Assume Positive Intent
From One Another and the Sessions

Listen to Understand Not Respond

No Spectators

Strive for Equity of Voice

No "yeah, buts" "we can't" "they won't" "It'll never"

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Norms of Engagement

Images from Flaticon.com
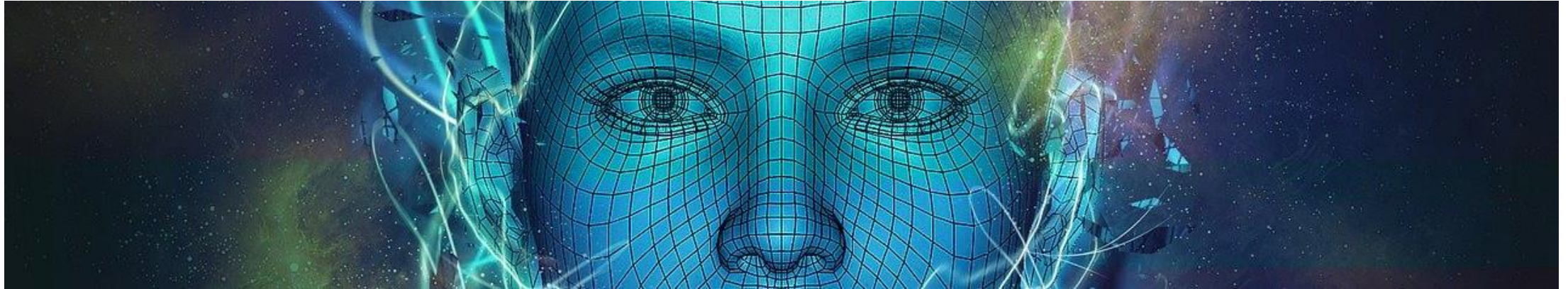
Surprise

BranchED Tradition

- Poetry Slam
- Battle of the Bands
- Math Superheroes
- Children's Books
- It's All About the Data
- EBP Cheers
- Songs of the Summit: AI Edition
- ???

Goals

Introduce participants to the concept of digital transformation in education and its implications for teaching and learning.

Explore effective pedagogical approaches and strategies that leverage digital technologies to enhance learning outcomes.

Empower educators with practical tools and insights to navigate and lead digital transformation initiatives in their educational institutions.

Event Webpage

https://www.educatordiversity.org/branched-2025-spring-summit/

Learning Objectives: Day 1

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1

Understand the purpose, structure, and goals of the modified Hackathon, setting expectations for collaborative work.

2

Collaboratively surface instructional and engagement challenges in teacher preparation and frame them as opportunities for innovation.

3

Engage in affinity voting to prioritize the identified opportunities.

Picture This: AI Edition

How would you describe your current relationship with AI?

- Choose the story card that best illustrates your current relationship with AI.

- At your table, share why you chose that card.

- When prompted, mingle and share with two other people why you selected your card.

- Come back together and introduce your last partner to the group.

Welcome to *From Pencils to Pixels*

How can we, as educators, shape the way AI is used in meaningful and ethical ways?

This summit is about...

- Exploring AI's role in teaching, learning, and innovation.

- Moving beyond the hype to practical applications.

- Collaborating to solve real challenges in teacher preparation.

What is AI?

A simple definition

- AI refers to computer systems that can perform tasks typically requiring human intelligence—like recognizing patterns, making predictions, and generating content.

- It's already part of our daily lives—from autocorrect and recommendation algorithms to virtual assistants like Siri or Alexa.

AI in Education –

Hype vs. Reality

What AI isn't:

- A magic solution that will replace teachers

- A one-size-fits-all tool

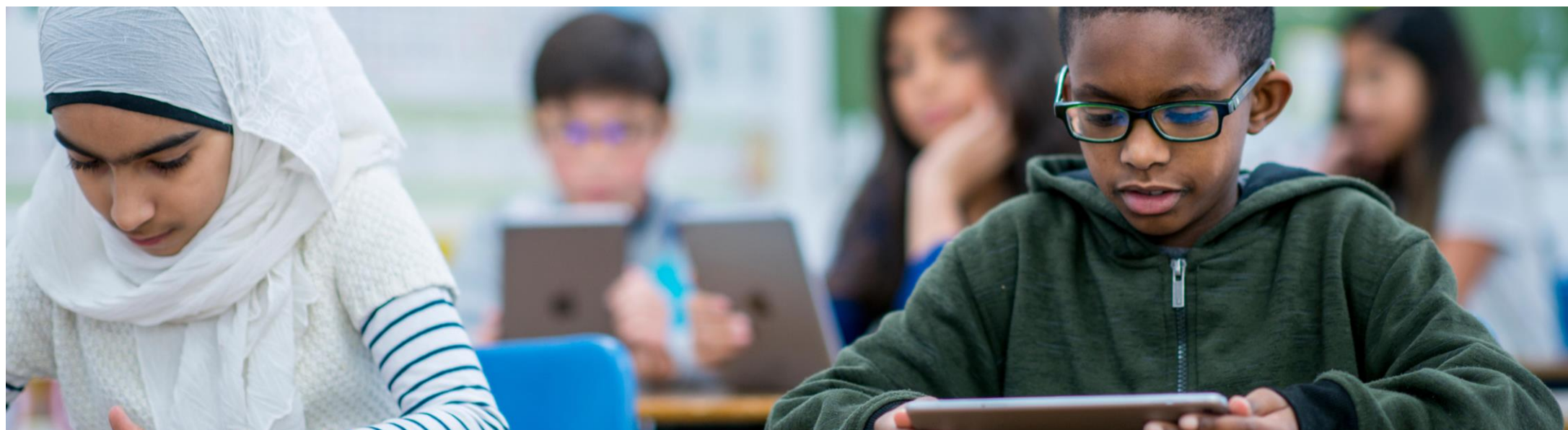- Something to be feared

What AI can be:

- A tool to support teachers, not replace them

- A way to reduce workload (grading, lesson planning, feedback)

- A means to personalize learning and provide real-time insights

The Big Question

AI is already here. The real question is…
How do we, as educators, guide its use to support learning and teaching—ethically and effectively?

What This Means for Us

What to Expect in this Summit

- Learn from experts (starting with our keynote!)

- Work in teams to develop AI-driven solutions in a hackathon format

- Explore real-world applications for AI in education

- Reflect on challenges, ethics, and responsible AI use

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Framing the Conversation

As you listen, consider...

- What excites you about AI's role in education?

- What concerns or challenges come to mind?

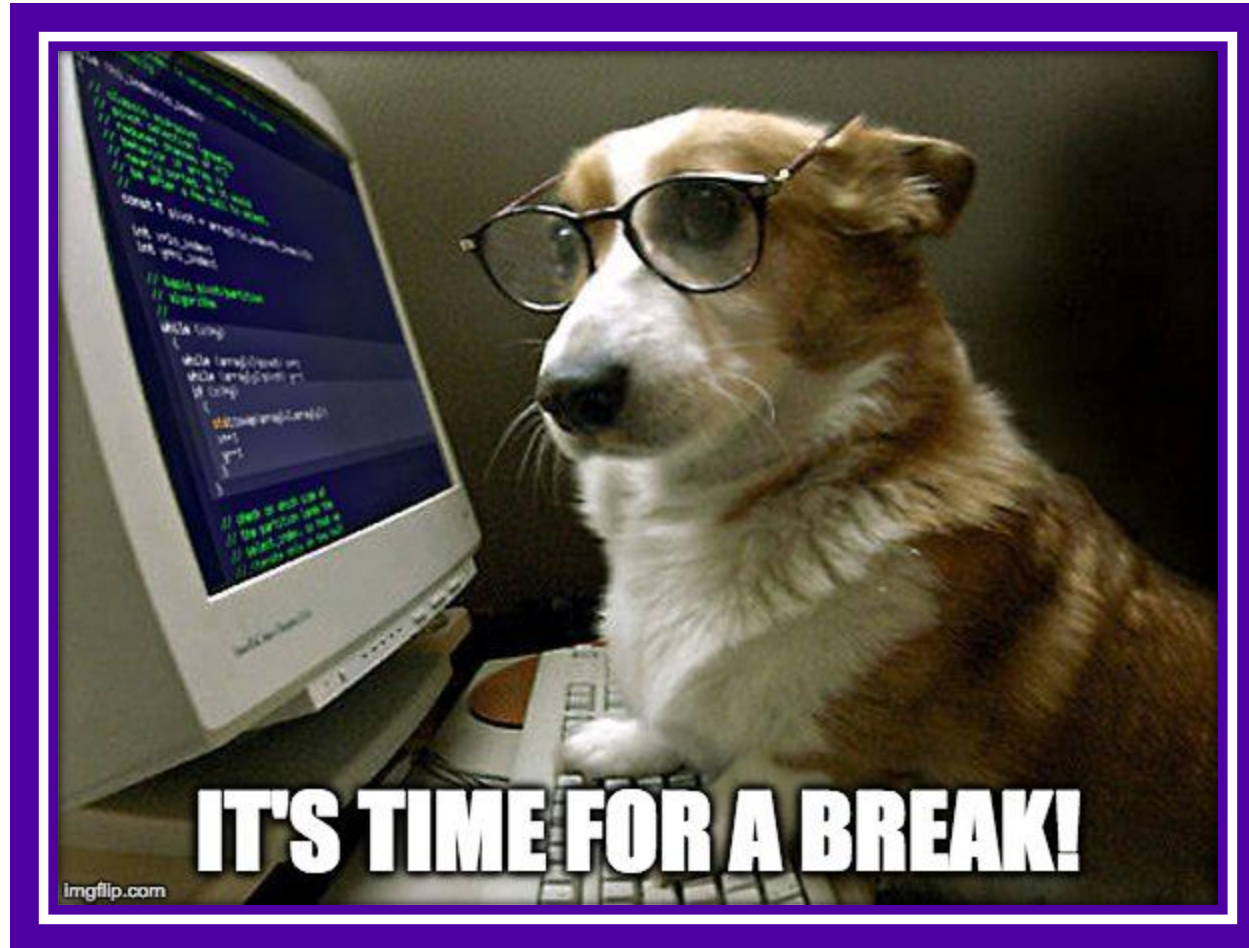- How might AI support your work as an educator?

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Keynote Speaker

Dr. C. Edward Watson

is the Vice President for Digital Innovation at the American Association of Colleges and Universities (AAC&U). He is also the founding director of AAC&U's **_Institute on AI, Pedagogy, and the Curriculum_**. Before joining AAC&U, Dr. Watson was the Director of the Center for Teaching and Learning at the University of Georgia (UGA). He led university efforts for faculty development, TA development, learning technologies, and the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning. He continues to serve as a Fellow in the Louise McBee Institute of Higher Education at UGA and recently stepped down after more than a decade as the Executive Editor of the _International Journal of Teaching and Learning in Higher Education_. His most recent book is **_Teaching with AI: A Practical Guide to a New Era of Human Learning_** (Johns Hopkins University Press, 2024). Dr. Watson been quoted in the _New York Times_, _Chronicle of Higher Education_, _Inside Higher Ed_, _Campus Technology_, _EdSurge_, _EdTech_, _Consumer Reports_, _UK Financial Times_, and _University Business Magazine_ and by the AP, CNN, and NPR regarding current teaching and learning issues and trends in higher education.

IT'S TIME FOR A BREAK!

Hackathon

What is a Hackathon?

- An intensive, hands-on innovation event where teams collaborate to design, develop, and refine creative solutions to a specific challenge

- Traditionally used in the tech industry

- Encourage rapid problem-solving, iteration, and teamwork

- Produce actionable solutions in a short period of time

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Hackathon

Our Version!

We are using a modified hackathon format that brings the same creativity and collaboration into the education space.

Instead of coding applications, teams will:

- Identify a key instructional or engagement challenge in teacher preparation.

- Develop or refine an AI-driven solution to address that challenge.

- Engage in structured work sessions, peer reviews, and expert-led discussions to refine and strengthen their ideas.

- Walk away with a tangible plan to implement and test their AI solution in their own educational settings.

Process Overview

Day 1

Identify key challenges.

Day 2

Form teams, ideate solutions, and develop prototypes.

Day 3

Share and reflect.

Surprise!

Branc...

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...ttle of the Bands

- Math Superheroes
- Children's Books
- It's All About the Data
- EBP Cheers
- Songs of the Summit: AI Edition

MORNING NEWS

Morning News

Day 3: Celebrate & Reflect

Format & Time Limit:

- Each team will have up to 5 minutes to present.
- Keep it concise, engaging, and focused—think of it as a quick news briefing!

What to Include in Your Update:

- **Headline:** A concise, attention-grabbing statement summarizing your project.
- **Breaking News Update:** A brief overview of your progress, key developments, and any major challenges or breakthroughs.
- **Next Steps & Questions:** Outline your immediate next steps and highlight any key questions for feedback from other teams

Surfacing Opportunities for Innovation

Group Discussion

In groups, consider challenges in teacher preparation from different perspectives. For example:

- Students: What barriers do teacher candidates face in learning and applying instructional strategies?

- Teachers: What challenges do K-12 educators experience in engaging students and implementing best practices?

- Faculty: What struggles exist in preparing teacher candidates for real-world classrooms?

- Community: How do families, administrators, and policymakers influence teacher effectiveness?

Brainstorm challenges on sticky notes.

Reframing

- Select 3-5 challenges to reframe and put forward for voting.

- Using a "**How might we...**" structure, reframe this challenge as opportunities for innovation. For example:

  - Problem: "Teacher candidates struggle with classroom management."

  - Opportunity: "How might we better prepare teacher candidates to handle real-world classroom dynamics?"

- Write your final opportunity statements on chart paper.

Sharing Your Opportunity Statements

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From Brainstorming to Action

It's time to share your selected opportunity statements with the group!

What to Share:

- **Your Opportunity Statements** – The challenge you're addressing, framed as a "How might we…?" question.

- **Why It Matters** – Who is impacted, and why is this an important issue in teacher preparation?

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Affinity Voting

Process: Gallery Walk

Take a moment to read through the challenges presented by different teams.

Consider questions such as:

- Would innovation in this opportunity area lead to greater equity and resiliency?

- Does this opportunity reflect the needs and concerns of key stakeholders (students, teachers, faculty, community)?

- Is this opportunity the right size for innovation—ambitious yet feasible to address?

Affinity Voting

- **Cast Your Votes** – Each participant gets **5 votes** (dot stickers).

  - You can place all votes on one opportunity you feel strongly about or spread your votes across multiple challenges you find compelling.

- **Observe Patterns** – Once voting is complete, we'll identify the top challenges based on clustering and interest.

- **Team Formation** – Tomorrow morning you will join teams based on the selected high-priority challenges.

Closing

Your Feedback is Important to Us!

- Tomorrow

Dinner Cruise!

Logistics

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From Pencils to Pixels: Navigating Transformation in Education

Education

Day 2

Agenda

Day 2

Welcome and Mentimeter Results

Team Formation

Group Discussions

Hackathon Work Sessions

Peer Reviews

Testing and Troubleshooting

Closing