



NGCP Webinar Chat Transcript

August 19, 2026

Building AI Literacy for Inclusion in STEM: Resources and Strategies from a National Landscape Study

Amanda Sullivan: Welcome! Please introduce yourself in the chat, let us know where you are joining from, and share the last thing you used AI for.

marla menchaca: Marla Menchaca from Austin Science Education Foundation- use AI for varying emails, working on procedural documents

Cindy Dabbs Phillips: Cindy Phillips Arkansas 4-H STEM. I used it this morning to make a Mission Extreme game with score sheet and equipment list.

Kate Tripiano: Hi! I'm Kate Tripiano from The Quarter Project in Colorado. The last time I used AI was to help organize lesson plans.

Erika Hansen: Erika from Applied Materials. I use AI to help organize communication plans

Rhiannon: Rhiannon Crain | Santa Cruz children's museum. Gave it a picture of a Costco receipt given to me by a board member and had it pull out the wine purchases and summarize my tax owed to CA for a charity beer garden

Tina Hinch: Tina Hinch from Chicago area. I am with a group that advocates for girls/women in Tech. I recently used AI to help build an outline for a presentation.

Jill Rhoden: Jill Rhoden - Austin Science Education Foundation - limited AI use

Dua Chaker: Hi! I am Dua Chaker from Teach Engineering. I used AI recently to draft a long email :-)

alyssahuang: My name is Alyssa (NGCP Youth Advisory Board Member) from California. The last time I used AI was to grammar check and shorten a paragraph about a female scientist for an Instagram reel.

Valerie Aveni, Motherboard Labs: Used AI this morning to summarize a strategy narrative into a one sheet

acohenvi: Alisa Cohen Victoria from AMD. I recently used AI to develop a portfolio scorecard.

Tami Jo Wilt- WV: Hi! I am Tami Jo Wilt, Quality Program Coordinator with the WV Statewide Afterschool Network, WVU Extension. I like to use AI as a brainstorming buddy when building out PD session outlines!

Madison Davis: Madison Davis - True Kids 1 - Media Education Nonprofit in Taos NM, providing a Teen Center with OST programming. I usually am using it to organize and breakdown my notes into a usable form

Tsvetelina Stefanova: Hello, I'm Tsvetelina Stefanova from Las Vegas, NV. I also used Ai to help with figuring out how to make changes to a pie chart in excel.

Lauren Sudimack: Lauren Sudimack with Motherboard Labs from Columbus OH. Used AI to help build out programming

Christy Roberts, MSDC (she/her): Hello from Concord, NH

adrienne: Slide show designs as part of PowerPoint - not sure if this aspect of the program is considered AI or something else.

Gabbie (she/her): Hi all! Gabbie from Beyond100K, based in Chicago. Excited for these findings!

Nicolas Arias-Velandia: AI in comparing writing formats and finding trends in open-ended data. Research assistant and doctoral student in early STEM education at East Tennessee State University

Amanda Sullivan: Learn more about NGCP: <https://ngcproject.org/>

Liz: Good morning, everyone! I'm Liz Ruggles from Cass County Health Department. Teen REACH Site Director and Prevention Specialist.

Amanda Sullivan: Join us for upcoming webinars and events: <https://ngcproject.org/events-announcements>

Amanda Sullivan: Subscribe to NGCP monthly e-newsletter: <http://ow.ly/Zuds30qwpOK>

Amanda Sullivan: Learn more about the project, partners, and advisors involved with this work here: <https://ngcproject.org/ai-literacy>

Sheila James: Hello I am Sheila James, Program Director Teen Science Cafe/ STEM Next Opportunity Fund

Amanda Sullivan: <https://stemnext.org/>

Brianna D'Alessio: Bri D'Alessio, STEM Program Manager at ReadyCT, and project lead of the CT Lt. Governor's Computing Challenge.

Kelsey Derringer: Kelsey Derringer, CEO and Co-Founder of CodeJoy - hi all!

Ken Rafanan: Hi, all. Ken Rafanan, Sr. STEM Education Developer at TERC and host of TERC Tech Talks (exploring AI for education) podcast.

Amanda Sullivan: Hello everyone! Thank you for being here today to have these important conversations about AI literacy with us today

Kelsey Kman: Hello! Kelsey Kman from NCWIT Future-Ready program out of the University of Colorado Boulder

Kelsey Derringer | CodeJoy (she/her): Reacted to "Hi, all. Ken Rafanan, Sr. STEM Education Developer at TERC and host of TERC Tech Talks (exploring AI for education) podcast." with 🙌

Merleanna Dick: We serve STEM Afterschool here at Education For Scholars, Inc. Tulsa, Oklahoma — Merleanna

Amanda Sullivan: If you're just joining, please introduce yourself in the chat and let us know where you're joining from

Amanda Sullivan: <https://www.ingenialearning.com/>

Amanda Sullivan: <https://www.amd.com/en/corporate/corporate-responsibility/amd-foundation.html>

Ellen Sukovich: Ellen Sukovich from Teach Engineering with NCWIT @ University of Colorado

Amanda Sullivan: Access the report here:

<https://ngcproject.org/sites/default/files/downloadables/2026-08/NGCP-LandscapeStudy-Report-FINAL.pdf>

Amanda Sullivan: If you have any questions about the landscape study or the findings as Brenda is presenting, please put them in the chat as you think of them!

Amanda Sullivan: We'll take some time to ask your questions after Brenda presents

Valerie Aveni, Motherboard Labs: Perhaps I've missed it, but how are you defining "AI use"? AI is integrated in many of the systems we already use, such as document production, web exploration, etc., without explicitly calling up Gemini or ChatGPT. Is this sussed out explicitly in the report?

Amanda Sullivan: We defined AI like this in our survey: For this survey, Artificial Intelligence (AI) refers to any digital tool or system that can perform tasks or make decisions on its own, without an explicit step-by-step command from a human. AI systems are machine-based computer programs designed to recognize patterns in large amounts of data and use this information to make decisions, predictions, or carry out actions in ways that may resemble how people think or act. AI is created by humans, trained using data collected by people, and ultimately reflects human choices and values. I will also ask Brenda to elaborate on this during the Q&A!

adrienne: So is the focus on AI Literacy of the educators than AI Literacy of the students? or both?

Amanda Sullivan: This study focused on data collection from educators. We did ask some questions about the youth they served too.

Valerie Aveni, Motherboard Labs: Thanks - I do wonder whether participants were aware when they're using it. Many people say they won't use it without realizing they use it frequently.

Amanda Sullivan: that's a really good point!

Amanda Sullivan: Thanks for these great questions you are putting in so far! Keep putting in your questions and ideas and we'll ask them soon

Kailin Chou (she/her): Did this research examine concerns about environmental impact of AI use? Or educators' awareness around environmental impacts, as a part of ethical use of AI?

Lauren Sudimack: Would love for you to expand on how to use AI safely and effectively...does this include environmental impacts?

Amanda Sullivan: These are great questions! Environmental impacts did come up as concerns. I'll ask Brenda to share more during the Q&A.

Madison Davis: As an OST program in a rural area, we fill in a lot of gaps that the school system cannot. How might we become qualified to be able to provide AI training and literacy for students and/or teaching staff? Any recommended resources? If we were able to go to the school with an in person program, we're much more likely to get engagement

Amanda Sullivan: We definitely hope you join us for the second webinar in our series that is focused on OST settings! <https://ngcproject.regfox.com/ngcpwebinar092926>. Camsie will share more about the OST perspective later in the webinar too

Madison Davis: Registered!

Amanda Sullivan: Wonderful! We can't wait to see you there :-)

Madison Davis: @Camsie McAdams Sent you a note

Abigail Darlington: We have so many resources at STEM Next! Here is one resource, and we'd love for you to sign up for our AI Innovation Challenge for afterschool - just launched yesterday!

Anita Krishnamurthi: There is a large gender gap that has emerged quickly in AI jobs, this was just published today - <https://news.linkedin.com/2026/new-linked-in-research-finds-women-account-for-just-26-percent-of-ai-hires-as-ai-jobs-surge>

adrienne: Are any colleges and universities requiring AI Literacy courses for education majors?

Karen Peterson: That would be a helpful thing to know. We'll add it to our list!

Valerie Aveni, Motherboard Labs: I suspect this reflects the disparity that already exists in tech careers broadly

Anita Krishnamurthi: for sure. just reflecting that the gap will only grow without targeted interventions.

Tina Hinch: In the tech workforce in general, women constitute only 27%. The 26% is certainly not good at all, but does mirror the 27%

Kaylee Plaza: I'm interested to see if you have any example AI policies from OST and in school time settings that you might be able to share. With this being an ever changing landscape, I'm always interested to see what others have in place and how they are adapting/how often they are reviewing these

Madison Davis: I'd be interested in this also

Camsie McAdams: @Tami Jo Wilt- WV was a key partner in our AI pilot (I will be talking about this shortly). She might be able to share some policies WV has in place or that are evolving...

Shane Woods (she/her), Girlstart: Happy to talk about how we created ours and what local school districts are building in Tx. shane@girlstart.org

Karen Peterson: @Shane Woods (she/her), Girlstart - thank you for sharing!

Camsie McAdams: STEM Next will be releasing a more comprehensive toolkit in October - stay tuned for that! Give me a ping on LinkedIn if you want to be looped into this 😊

adrienne: There seem to be 2 separate issues - how do educators use AI, become informed, trained, etc. and then how do educators teach their students AI literacy. Will this project be addressing both issues?

Karen Peterson: Yes, we are planning resources for both issues. Stay tuned!

adrienne: Are any follow-up studies planned...1 year? 5 year?

Ken Rafanan: This (attitudes, comfort, training) would be wonderful to track over time.

Karen Peterson: Such a great idea. We will see what we can do!

Camsie McAdams: Seems like the landscape is changing rapidly, so perhaps even an informal mechanism to reconnect with survey participants earlier than a year...?

HeatherWorley: Did the research bring up concerns from educators with the role of AI being mandated for certain daily practices and how that impacts teacher workload?

Brenda Britsch: @HeatherWorley that concern did not really come up; however, we asked what educators' most desired outcome was from using AI and saving time was the most frequent response.

Ken Rafanan: And over time, more folks may become more aware that the environmental impacts (especially around data center sites) are not shared equally.

Valerie Aveni, Motherboard Labs: Digital redlining is a huge issue, and the communities lacking equity most are also often the ones bearing the brunt of the negative environmental impacts as well.

Amanda Sullivan: If you have questions for Camsie as she is speaking, please drop them in the chat!

adrienne: Is there any research - or best practices info - relevant to this project from the experience of educators during the pandemic regarding distance learning, using tech, etc?

Amanda Sullivan: That's an interesting question! I'm curious if anyone on the call has research they can share.

Kaylee Plaza: Love this - I've just written an elementary curriculum called AI Unplugged, and it involves no technology at all!

Amanda Sullivan: That's wonderful! I love learning about the unplugged and hands-on approaches to introducing AI. Would love to learn more about your curriculum!

Valerie Aveni, Motherboard Labs: Are you willing to share this? I love this concept

Madison Davis: Is there anywhere this is accessible? I run a program about digital wellness, safety, and balance and would be very interested to learn

adrienne: Is AI literacy something to be added to existing digital literacy courses? Any idea how widespread such courses are and whether AI lit is being added?

adrienne: both for K-12 students, formal and informal settings - and for teacher training, too

Tami Jo Wilt- WV: I do know here in WV, the Department of Education is adding AI Literacy to CS Coursework. I'm not 100% certain what that looks like yet. They are also developing a badging program for educators and students!

Tami Jo Wilt- WV: In OST here in WV, we are working to develop lessons and an activity library to increase AI Literacy and educator comfort. We love being able to work with programs to hear their needs and how their students can create authentic connections, including career connections.

Amanda Sullivan: Register for part 2 and 3 of this AI Literacy Webinar series! Part 2: <https://ngcproject.regfox.com/ngcpwebinar092926> and Part 3: <https://ngcproject.regfox.com/ngcpwebinar110326>

Amanda Sullivan: Camsie will be back for Part 2

Amanda Sullivan: Building AI Literacy at Scale: Why Afterschool Matters Now, at www.stemnext.org/ai-brief

Camsie McAdams: Please send this my way! cmcadams@stemnext.org

Kata Lucas (she/her): Just a reminder that this is a 90-minute webinar, so we have plenty of time for questions. 😊

adrienne: Is this shift a bit like the increase in programs related to coding that took place a decade or so ago?

Kelsey Derringer | CodeJoy (she/her): You know, it feels like that ON STEROIDS. Faster, affecting more areas, affecting more teachers.

Kelsey Derringer | CodeJoy (she/her): It also feels different because we're not just asking Tech Teachers to take this on. We are asking ALL educators to take this on. The cutting edge teachers, and the middle majority, and the tech hesitant.

Tina Hinch: We must include in this conversation the benefits that AI plays in enhancing the learning process - personalized and adaptive learning, etc. When educators are not prepared to use AI in the education process, their students are missing out.

Deyanira Salazar: AI can be very beneficial, but, of course, when it is used to cheat, like in math, which I tutor and specialize in, then no, not good, as the research shows.

Amanda Sullivan: These were many of the concerns that came up in our survey and focus groups as well!

adrienne: I wonder also about how AI literacy applies to education for students with various disabilities - both for educators and students - to what extent to adaptive tools (ex. screen readers) utilize AI - or might in future?

Deyanira Salazar: For good, I have created some Singapore mathematics apps which I could not have done before AI. So in this case, it is great!

Kelsey Derringer | CodeJoy (she/her): I also worry about educational institutions which must serve all, equitably, getting wrapped up in the AI hype machine that is actually geared at Silicon Valley investors.

Kaylee Plaza: @Tami Jo Wilt- WV - I would love to chat more. We met in Florida in June and I would love to continue the conversation 😊

Tami Jo Wilt- WV: Yes! Send me an email, please! tjwilt@mail.wvu.edu

Kelsey Derringer | CodeJoy (she/her): I think about the difference between people using AI for efficiency purposes, and our responsibilities as educators to consider the pedagogical implications, the ways using AI can affect the learning process.

Deyanira Salazar: I have used Grok quite a bit for my business, and it has been so helpful.

Tsvetelina Stefanova: I love that perspective about including language arts teachers - anybody going into the field of science knows how much writing is involved in doing research.

Ken Rafanan: In general, there is a real lack of good research around productive uses of AI for learning. It is so new and still changing so fast, solid research is tough.

Brenda Britsch: Yes - great point

Sharlene Chiu: <https://www.getcybersmart.org/for-teachers>

Deyanira Salazar: I can definitely share my links to all that I have created using AI, mostly in STEM.

Karen Peterson: Thank you for sharing!

Sharlene Chiu: Quite a few AI literacy resources here. Common Sense Media, one of our members, has great resources

Madison Davis: Awesome!

Valerie Aveni, Motherboard Labs: This has been very interesting. I'm wondering about the title of the presentation - speaking of inclusion. I guess I expected more of a conversation around inclusion of underserved or marginalized students or educators. I will read through the report and I'm sure it will be obvious, but I wonder if you can speak to that?

Amanda Sullivan: That's a great question. I'll see if Brenda or the other speakers can share more on the equity aspects.

HeatherWorley: I would love to see scaffolded materials for using AI to teach writing in a way that allows for more in-depth critical thinking skill development while leveraging AI supports for grammar and structure.

Ken Rafanan: Almost like we could use an AI-bot that is specifically designed to do compliance checks (and recommendations) 😊

Rhiannon: Speaking of education and AI anyone catch this emerging effort in NY to turn HS into an AI-driven entrepreneurial exercise? <https://pagesix.com/2026/07/01/lifestyle/nycs-ai-powered-private-schools-second-location-guarantees-students-will-graduate-with-million-dollar-business/>

Ken Rafanan: If only it were that easy 😊

Tina Hinch: I recommend looking into Microsoft's Seeing AI on youtube. It is about how AI helps with visually impaired people.

Eileen Gelblat: Vision 1948 used Teachable Machines with a small group of 3rd grade special needs children in a school. They need a lot of reinforcement, but it was a start

Deyanira Salazar: What is the best email to send my links to?

Amanda Sullivan: this is a past NGCP webinar that might be interesting to some:

<https://ngcproject.org/resources/exploring-issues-equity-artificial-intelligence>

Camsie McAdams: <https://www.goodreads.com/en/book/show/41104077-invisible-women>

Deyanira Salazar: Yes, I am so happy that we had this webinar.

adrienne: Is the term "AI Literacy" now replacing the terms "misinformation" and "disinformation"?

Deyanira Salazar: AI is definitely here to stay, and people need to learn how to use it, especially b/c it is changing so fast. But I have also taught in public schools, and I can imagine that it is difficult for teachers to keep up b/c of the many things that they have to do.

HeatherWorley: For now the hype sometimes seems to lead to throwing AI into everything, but when it catches up with learning theory and becomes more integrated to the work as opposed to a replacement for tedious work it will become incredibly productive.

Tami Jo Wilt- WV: An important discussion we focused on in the CoP and our session at our conference was around how could we use AI to help us handle everyday tasks to improve our capacity and increase the quality of what we can provide to our program participants and their families.

alesia.lane: Yes pop back in please

Alena: Yes please!

Deyanira Salazar: Yes, what is the link to the report?

Kata Lucas (she/her): Access the report here:

<https://ngcproject.org/sites/default/files/downloadables/2026-08/NGCP-LandscapeStudy-Report-FINAL.pdf>

adrienne: Thank you to NGCP and panelists for this webinar - appreciate the variety of comments and resources in the chat as well!

Alena: Thank you!!

Kaylee Plaza: I have to dash to a school now but this has been a fantastic use of time, collaboration and excellent resource overall. Thank you for everyone's input and hard work to discuss this important topic! Conversations to be continued...

Karen Peterson: Thank you all for taking the time to join us today!

Bonnie Bertolaet (she/her): Thank you!

Amanda Sullivan: If you enjoyed this webinar, support the work of the National Girls Collaborative: <https://ngcproject.app.neoncrm.com/forms/donation>

Amanda Sullivan: Please complete our post-webinar survey:
<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=tP9DY0cGHUGNH9c28obzsHmXn1LOnhxNtf7SYAFQjFZUNzUxV1RQRk4yMzFMSjJSVFc5RzdQRERMMC4u>

Emma Giamberdino, ACT Now: Thanks so much!

HeatherWorley: Thank you! This has been fantastic!

Ken Rafanan: Thank you to the organizers and to everyone sharing.

Merleanna Dick: Thank you! 😊