

Harnessing the Power of AI for Student Success



Today's Presenters



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Today's Agenda

Framing the Conversation

The Practitioners Toolkit

The Roadmap

Reclaiming Time, Restoring Connection

Framing the *Conversation*

Embracing a *Learner Mindset*

+

Fast Pace of
Change

+

Mixed Emotions
about AI

+

Move from Fear
to Strategy

+

Hope Grounded
in Responsibility

Elon/AAC&U national survey: 95% of college faculty fear student overreliance on AI

By [Eric Townsend](#), staff | [January 21, 2026](#)

The AI Challenge

How College Faculty Assess the Present and Future of Higher Education in the Age of AI



Embracing a *Learner Mindset*

+

Fast Pace of
Change

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Mixed Emotions
about AI

+

Move from Fear
to Strategy

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Hope Grounded
in Responsibility

What We Mean by “AI in Student Success”

A Shared Understanding



For Educators & Administrators

- A way to extend attention and care, not replace it
- A means of surfacing patterns and needs earlier
- Support for consistency and follow-through at scale
- A responsibility that requires human judgment and accountability
- Something that works in partnership with people, not independently



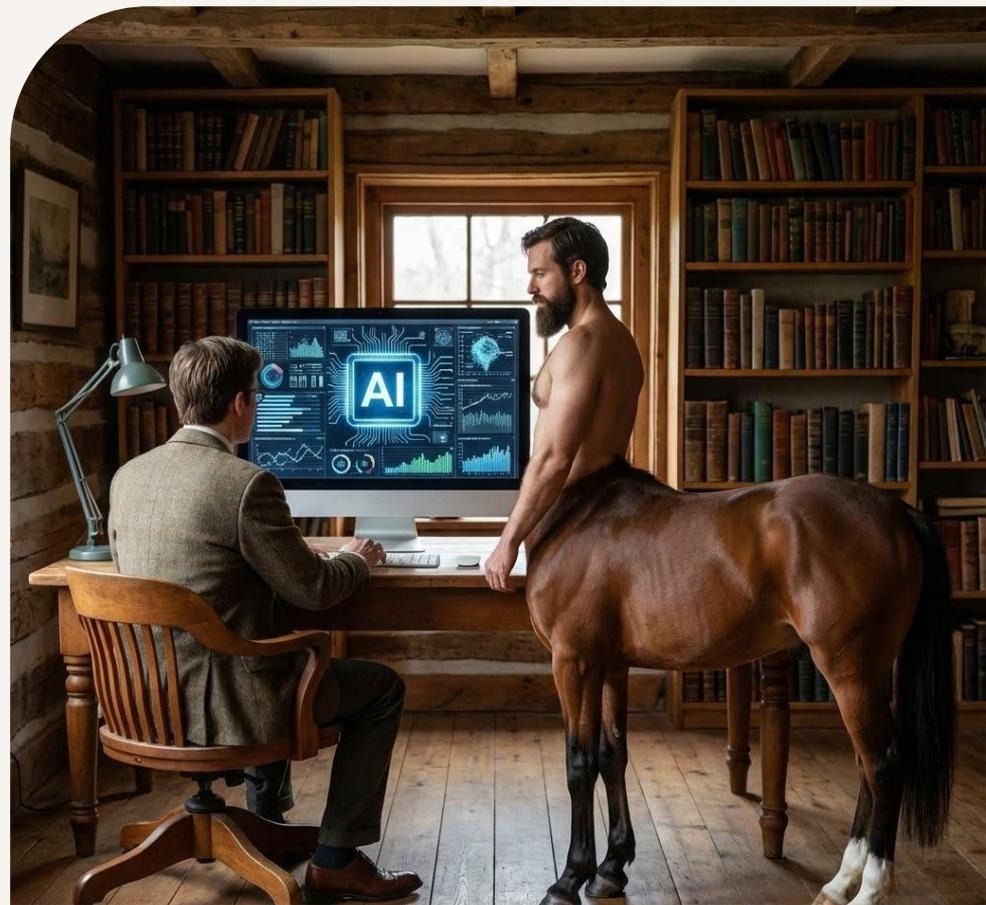
For Students

- A support for learning, planning, and sense-making
- Help navigating complexity, not avoiding effort
- A space to practice and reflect without high stakes
- Guidance that can be used openly and critically
- A tool that complements, rather than replaces, human relationships

The Centaur Model

AI = scale, drafting, pattern detection

Humans = judgement, ethics, care



Myth vs Reality

MYTH
AI Will Replace Humans

REALITY
AI is a *really good intern*
or *thought partner*, not
a replacement

Myth vs Reality

MYTH

AI is an All-Knowing Oracle

REALITY

LLMs are *predictive engines*,
not search engines

Myth vs Reality

MYTH

All AI Use is Cheating

REALITY

The better question is not
if students use AI, but
how, why and to *what end*

Myth vs Reality

MYTH
AI Works on Its Own

REALITY
Effective *AI requires a*
human in the loop

Myth vs Reality

MYTH

AI Is Free and Harmless

REALITY

Cost, privacy, and
environmental impact are
real and measurable

Myth vs Reality

Shift the Focus from policing & free-for-all AI use to intentional design



Where We've Been

Students: restriction,
detection, punishment

Educators & staff: ad
hoc use, silence, no
guardrails

AI happening around
the institution, not with
it



Where We're Going

Shared goals and
expectations

Clear guardrails for
everyone

AI use designed to
support learning,
work, and care

Open, transparent,
institutionally
supported practice



The Practitioners Toolkit

Where AI is Showing Up in Student Success Today

- + Institutional Scale & Early Intervention
- + Classroom & Learning Experience
- + Pathways & Progression
- + Career Readiness & Translation to Work

Institutional Scale & Early Interventions

Finding risk early. Keeping humans central.



FAQ Chatbots



Proactive
Success Bots



Equity Aware
Analytics

Classroom & Learning Experience

Reducing friction. Supporting sense-making.



AI as a
Study Coach



Syllabus Bot



Dialogue Tool

Pathways & Progression

Momentum matters.



Transfer Credit
Evaluation



Degree Audit &
Pathways



Accessibility &
Multimodality

Career Readiness & Translation to Work

From education to employment.



Career
Translation



Practice &
Preparation



Pathway
Exploration

Where could one
human-centered AI
use remove friction for
students on your
campus this semester?

Discussion

The Roadmap

Strategy Over Policy

Policies age quickly; strategies evolve

Guardrails & Governance

Secure platforms, clear syllabus signals and cross-functional ownership

Critical AI Literacy

Technical | Cognitive | Ethical



Reclaiming Time, Restoring Connection

- + Start Small and Distinct
- + Create Connected Learning Networks
- + Stay Human-First



The goal of AI in student success isn't efficiency—it's restoring time and attention for *human* connection.

Resources

[AI Is the Future. Higher Ed Should Shape It.](#)

[Inside Higher Ed Voices of Student Success Podcast](#)

[Teaching in Higher Education Podcast](#)

[Using AI to predict student success in higher education](#)

[AI for Student Success | Complete College America](#)

[Navigating the Jagged Technological Frontier: Field Experimental Evidence of the Effects of AI on Knowledge Worker Productivity and Quality](#)

Thank you.

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