SoCo&AI

Welcome to PCC

SoCo&AI brings together educators, students, thought leaders, business professionals, and community members to examine the promise of AI and the ethical responsibilities that come with it.

Together, we'll deepen our understanding of AI, confront its challenges, and explore how it can be used responsibly to strengthen our region.

Today's Schedule	
7:30 am	Check-in and Breakfast
8:30 am	Keynote Address: **Jonathan Liebert**
10:00 am	Sessions
11:00 am	Sessions
Noon	**Lunch** sponsored by **Cisco, Milestone Tech,** and **PackBack**
1:00 pm	Sessions
2:00 pm	Sessions
3:00 pm	Sessions
4:30 pm	**Happy Hour** sponsored by **BoodleBox** Keynote Address: **France Hoang**

See detailed information on the other side

Meet our presenters

Scan the QR code to visit PCC's SoCo&AI webpage to learn more about today's presenters and their sessions.

Pueblo Community College

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SoCo&AI Schedule of Events

Pueblo Community College

7:30 am to 8:30 am	**Check-in** | Registration Desk, Student Center Upper Level **Breakfast** | Fortino Ballroom. Sponsored by **PCC's Academic Support and Student Services.**
8:30 am	Opening Keynote Speaker | Fortino Ballroom **Jonathan Liebert** | CEO and Executive Director, Better Business Bureau of Southern Colorado; Author of the book *Thought Partner: The Fusion of Soul and System*

Time	Fortino Ballroom	Barbara Fortino Conference Room	Hoag Theater (Davis Academic Building)	Room AB-090 (Davis Academic Building)	Room AB-014 (Davis Academic Building)	Pueblo Joe's (Student Center lower level)
10:00 to 10:45 am	**Matt Stilwell** *AI Judgment's the Thing: What students need more than AI skills*	**Next Gen Visionaries** *Student AI competition*	**Hannah Moody-Goo** and **Jennifer Tozer** *Cataloging AWS Welding Collection with AI*	**Aaron Crowell** *Talk To Your Textbook*	**Haley Hegeman** *Ctrl+Alt+Verify: Debugging Excel Formulas and Macros with BoodleBox*	**Recharge Room** *With sponsors, coffee and snacks*
11:00 to 11:45 am	**Tony Bobadilla** *AI, Equity, and Authentic Voice: How Minority College Students Negotiate the Ethical Use of AI*	**Next Gen Visionaries** *Student AI competition*	**Angie Dodson** *Beyond the Prompt: Building Socio-Technical AI Fluency Across Classrooms and Boardrooms*	**Michelle Ohnemus** and **Chrystal Everett** *Beyond the Cape: Assembling Your AI Toolkit for Nursing*	**Katherine Stevenson** *Colorado's AI Statute: A Practitioner's View*	**Recharge Room** *With sponsors, coffee and snacks*

Noon to 12:45 pm	**Lunch** | Provided by our sponsors cisco MILESTONE packback Fearlessly curious.

Time	Fortino Ballroom	Barbara Fortino Conference Room	Hoag Theater (Davis Academic Building)	Room AB-090 (Davis Academic Building)	Room AB-014 (Davis Academic Building)	Pueblo Joe's (Student Center lower level)
1:00 to 1:45 pm	**Patrick Maille** *AI, Education, and the Changing Job Market (in Pueblo and beyond)*	**Next Gen Visionaries** *Student AI competition*	**PCC Students** *AI on Trial*	**Tracy Williams** *Building Bots for Student Learning*	**Justin Pack** *Building the Future: AI Chatbots and Agents in 2026*	**Recharge Room** *With sponsors, coffee and snacks*
2:00 to 2:45 pm	**Dennis Natali** *AI Development Curriculum for the Professional Workforce*	**Next Gen Visionaries** *Student AI competition*	**Ryan Merry** *Keep Critical Thinking at the Center of Learning in the Age of AI*	**Adrian Banister** *AI-Powered Classroom Responses: Building, Training, and Using Custom Bots for Student Engagement*	**Kevin Yang** *Deploying AI Workers in Your Business: A Real-World Case Study with Real Estate Brokerages*	**Recharge Room** *With sponsors, coffee and snacks*
3:00 to 3:45 pm	**Dana Trujillo** and **Daya Trujillo** *A Comparison of Collegiate AI Use in Pueblo County*	**Leading the AI Shift** *Colorado Colleges in Conversation.* ***(By invitation only)***	**Allison Duke** *Your AI Partner: Practical AI Strategies for Busy Professionals*	**AI Swag Lab** *Collaborate with AI to make your own conference keepsake*	**Andrew Contiguglia** *Don't Skip the Legal: What Every Colorado Business Needs to Know About AI Before January 1, 2027*	**Recharge Room** *With sponsors, coffee and snacks*

4:30 to 6:00 pm	**Happy Hour** | Fortino Ballroom | Sponsored by BoodleBox
5:00 to 6:00 pm	Closing Keynote Speaker | Fortino Ballroom **France Hoang** | CEO and Founder, BoodleBox

Keynote Speakers



Jonathan Liebert

CEO and Executive Director,
Better Business Bureau of Southern Colorado

Jonathan Liebert is an AI thought leader, author, and nationally recognized advocate for social innovation, small business development and ethical AI use. In his role at the BBB and the Southern Colorado Impact Group, Jonathan leads transformative initiatives that fuse technological advancement with trust, purpose, and impact.

A leader in the AI space, Jonathan founded *The Colorado AI Collective,* an interdisciplinary think tank of experts that are accelerating regional collaboration and education in artificial intelligence. He is the Chair of the National AI and Quantum Taskforce for the National Association of State Workforce Board Chairs, where he strategizes AI policy frameworks focused on workforce development, economic equity, and digital transformation.

Jonathan is the visionary behind Colorado Springs' inaugural BLAZE AI Summit, a statewide gathering designed to empower small and medium-sized businesses with AI tools and strategy. He also teaches applied AI through courses like AI Powerup for Small Businesses, enabling business leaders to adapt and thrive in an AI-driven economy.

He is the author of Thought Partner. The Fusion of Soul and System: The AI Collaboration, a groundbreaking book exploring the synthesis of human and artificial intelligence. The work outlines a future-forward model of cognition and offers a practical framework for organizations and individuals to evolve alongside emerging technologies.



France Hoang

Founder & CEO, BoodleBox

France Hoang is the CEO and Founder of BoodleBox, a collaborative AI workspace selected by more than 150 colleges and universities — now serving over 120,000 users.

As a Distinguished Visiting Lecturer at West Point and a former university trustee, France brings a uniquely grounded perspective to the challenges and opportunities facing higher education today.

BoodleBox enables students to learn not just about AI, but with the same workforce-grade tools they will use in their careers — ensuring equitable access and genuine AI readiness across campus. Through partnerships with colleges and universities of every size and mission, France helps educators reimagine how learning prepares students for an AI-enabled world.

Evacuated from Vietnam by the U.S. Military in 1975, France graduated from the United States Military Academy at West Point in the academic top 1% of his class and holds a J.D. magna cum laude from Georgetown University Law Center. His focus is straightforward: equip every student — regardless of background — with the tools, skills, and human discernment to thrive in the workforce ahead. A frequent speaker on AI literacy and the future of learning, France is based in Colorado.

Pueblo Community College | SoCo&AI

Our Presenters

AI Development Curriculum for the Professional Workforce

Presented by **Dr. Dennis Natali**
Pikes Peak State College

Summary: In this short, 45-minute session, he will lead you in an interactive workshop to build a rock-solid workplace AI Training program that will increase ROI of the new AI tools you purchased.

His approach is engaging and approachable, designed for real-world use – starting today, when you return to your office.

About the presenter: Dr. Natali is a nationally recognized expert in helping organizations use artificial intelligence in practical, ethical, and time-saving ways. The U.S. Congress has recognized him, and he has been interviewed numerous times on local news, in The New York Times and other newspapers, and most recently on the Discovery Channel as a subject-matter expert on the future growth of AI in society.

As the AI Innovation Chair at Pikes Peak State College, he has trained teams at more than 200 colleges nationwide to use AI as a supportive workplace assistant and not a replacement for human judgment.

Cataloging Collections with AI

Presented by **Hannah Moody-Goo** and **Jennifer Tozer**
Pueblo Community College

Summary: Using an AI bot to help catalog and organize over 600 books from the American Welding Society so they are available for the welding students and community to use.

About the presenter: Moody-Goo is the Director of the Pueblo Community College Library and she will be presenting on behalf of the creator, Jennifer Tozer. She is the Academic Librarian at the PCC Library who completed the welding project and designed the presentation, but is unable to attend today's event.

Talk To Your Textbook

Presented by **Aaron Crowell**
Pueblo Community College

Summary: *Talk to Your Textbook* is an AI-powered tutor bot created using Boodlebox. Designed for educators and students, this versatile tool transforms any textbook into an interactive learning experience. By uploading a textbook PDF, teachers can quickly create a subject-specific AI tutor that helps students grasp concepts, ask questions, and engage more deeply with the material.

We'll explore how educators can incorporate this bot into their classrooms, its potential for customization, and its role in making learning more accessible and conversational.

About the presenter: Crowell currently serves as an instructor in PCC's Fine Arts, Humanities and Media Communications department.

Colorado's AI Statute: A Practitioner's View

Presented by **Katherine Stevenson**
Colorado Community College System

Summary: If you built a compliance program for the Colorado AI Act, the law you built it for no longer exists. SB 24-205 never took effect - it was delayed, enjoined, then repealed and replaced in May 2026 by SB 26-189, the ADMT Act, which takes effect January 1, 2027.

What replaced it looks narrower on paper but is broader in reach. This session is a deployer's-eye view from the state's largest higher education system: how we scoped it, where the sector safe harbors run out, what we are now asking of vendors, and why the comment window closing October 2026 matters more than the effective date.

About the presenter: Katherine Stevenson is Chief Technology Officer and Deputy Chief Information Officer of the Colorado Community College System, responsible for enterprise technology strategy, infrastructure, and information security.

Her primary areas of expertise are cybersecurity, risk

management, and regulatory compliance in higher education. She works extensively with the federal requirements governing student and institutional data, and the responsible adoption of Artificial Intelligence in academic environments.

Katherine has 30 years of experience in information technology, including more than a decade in executive leadership. She previously spent over twenty years at the University of Louisville in a variety of IT and leadership roles.

Building Bots for Student Learning

Presented by **Tracy Williams**
Pueblo Community College

Summary: This presentation will give faculty and instructors insight into building bots that not only allow for student engagement but also provide an interactive experience, ensuring that learning outcomes are being met. They will learn to build different bots based on the assignment or activity and tailor the bot to fit specific classes and learning objectives.

About the presenter: Williams is the Department Chair of PCC's Social Sciences program and is currently Psychology faculty.

Beyond the Cape: Assembling Your AI Toolkit for Nursing

Presented by **Michelle Ohnemus** and **Chrystal Everett**
Pueblo Community College

Summary: While 44-49% of nurses now utilize AI in clinical practice, nursing education often remains stalled by ethical concerns, creating a gap between classroom preparation and workforce reality. The challenge for educators is to move beyond "if" we should use AI to "how" we can implement it safely, ethically, and effectively

Our solution introduces the "5 Rights of AI" framework, Right Purpose, Platform, Placement, Protections, and Preparations grounded in the 2025 ANA Code of Ethics for Nurses and demonstrated through a structured guide process using BoodleBox.

Participants will explore custom-built bots including "PN Nursing Captain Marvel," a superhero-themed medication administration tutor covering dosage calculations, safety protocols, and 2026 Colorado Nursing standards with ATI-style quizzes, and "Epione," a nurse aide program guide named after the Greek goddess of soothing care. AI-powered nursing games, Connect Four, Jeopardy, and Battleship are reimagined as competitive clinical review tools, all embedded directly into D2L shells to enhance critical thinking and clinical judgment.

Relevance to Colorado: As our state leads with the Colorado Artificial Intelligence Act (CAIA), Pueblo Community College is modeling how regional institutions can ensure transparency, equity, and safety in AI integration, aligning with ANA Provision 9's call to promote social justice while preparing Colorado's future healthcare workforce for a tech-driven landscape.

About the presenters: Chrystal M. Everett brings a rich tapestry of experience to nursing education. After 20 years as a bartender mastering the art of human connection, she transitioned to healthcare-serving 7 years as an LPN, 8 years as a BSN, and 2 years with her MSN in Education. Now in her third year as a nursing professor at Pueblo Community College, Chrystal combines her passions for AI, gardening, the outdoors, and compassionately teaching others to care for people on their worst days.

Michelle Ohnemus is the Nurse Aide Program Chair at Pueblo Community College and an Alzheimer's Association Community Educator who brings three decades of compassionate nursing to the classroom. She completed her MSN in Informatics at Grand Canyon University in 2023 and champions dementia awareness with warmth and clarity. Michelle helps students turn data and empathy into better care-and keeps learning lively by integrating new technology, including BoodleBox, into education.

AI, Education, and the Changing Job Market (in Pueblo and Beyond)

Presented by **Dr. Patrick Maille**
Pueblo Community College

Summary: How is AI changing the job market in Pueblo (and the world)? Is higher education up to the task of preparing people for this new kind of work environment? We will use interviews, local news, and scholarly publications to delve into these questions and come up with a few answers. Along the way, we'll ask to what extent this is truly brand new or, is technological history repeating itself?

About the presenter: Maille holds a Ph.D. in History and serves as Dean of Arts and Sciences at Pueblo Community College. Although he wrote a book on the *History of Tarot Cards*, as a doctoral student, he studied the History of Technology in America. Like most other people, the last few years have motivated him to learn more about AI, but he has done so from the perspective of an educator and with an interest in the cultural, as well as economic, impact of the technology.

A Comparison of Collegiate AI Use in Pueblo County

Presented by **Dana Trujillo** and **Daya Trujillo**
Pueblo Community College

Summary: One college in Pueblo is AI enabled and encourages student classroom use with guidance from instructors; while the other institution of higher education prohibits all use and discussion of AI. With the rise of Artifical Intelligence, the job of the educational system is to prepare students to collaborate with all avaliable tools in a responsible way while maintaining appropriate levels of academic and personal integrity.

Without proper training provided by faculty, students will be unable to effectively use these tools to ehnance their eduation, will be unaware of gaps in ethical use, and will fail to be adequite functioning members of the workforce after graduation.

This subject will be presented from two opposing viewpoints: a teacher and a student.

About the presenters: Dana Trujillo is an English Faculty member at Pueblo Community College with more than fifteen years of teaching experience at three institutions. She has been using AI in her classroom since fall 2023.

Daya Trujillo is a math and marketing major who is also pursuing an MBA degree at CSU-Pueblo while working in the University Library. She struggles with the ban on AI use in her studies, as Daya has learned from Dana that AI is a valuable tool.

Don't Skip the Legal: What Every Colorado Business Needs to Know About AI Before January 1, 2027

Presented by **Andrew Contiguglia**
Miller & Steiert, P.C.

Summary: Colorado businesses are already using artificial intelligence to draft contracts, screen job applicants, respond to customers, price services, and make lending and housing decisions. Most owners have no idea what legal risk they are creating in the process.

The stakes just got higher. On May 14, 2026, Governor Jared Polis signed the Colorado Automated Decision-Making Technology Act, which takes effect January 1, 2027. The law requires businesses that use AI to influence decisions in employment, housing, lending, insurance, healthcare, education, or government benefits to give consumers upfront notice, provide plain-language explanations of adverse outcomes within 30 days, and offer meaningful human review. Penalties reach $20,000 per violation.

This workshop teaches Colorado business owners and community members the practical AI legal risks they face right now and what to do about them before the new law takes effect.

About the presenter: Andy Contiguglia is a Colorado attorney with over 30 years of practice in business, litigation, criminal defense, First Amendment and media law, and intellectual property. He is Counsel at Miller & Steiert, P.C. in Littleton and has taught at Arapahoe Community College since 2004. He is the author of the book and host of the podcast *Don't Skip the Legal*, where he helps business owners spot legal risk before it becomes a problem.

AI Judgment's the Thing: What Students Need More Than AI Skills

Presented by **Matt Stilwell**
Front Range Community College

Summary: The dominant conversation about AI in higher education focuses on tools, prompts, and productivity. Student voices tell a different story. Analysis of open-ended responses from the Front Range Community College AI Survey suggests that many students' greatest concerns are not technical but human: anxiety about false accusations of cheating, uncertainty about career readiness, difficulty determining what information to trust, concerns about overreliance on AI, and fears that technology may weaken authentic learning and connection.

This session reframes AI literacy through the lenses of student wellbeing, empathy, and human-centered design. Drawing on Dr. Leo Lo's AI Literacy for All framework, participants will explore three emerging literacy gaps identified through student survey research: critical evaluation, ethical awareness, and human-centered decision-making. Attendees will engage with authentic student perspectives and leave with practical strategies for helping learners navigate AI while preserving agency, developing sound judgment, and maintaining meaningful connections to faculty, peers, and their fields of study.

About the presenter: Stilwell has more than 25 years of experience in higher education. He brings deep expertise in learning design, curriculum development and English and Literature instruction, along with the honor of being a trusted instructional coach who supports his colleagues, their departments and cross-disciplinary teams.

AI, Equity, and Authentic Voice: How Minority College Students Negotiate the Ethical Use of AI

Presented by **Tony Bobadilla**
Associate Professor/Dept. Chair

Summary: Artificial intelligence is rapidly becoming part of higher education, yet conversations about its ethical use often focus on institutional policies, academic integrity, and technological capabilities rather than students' lived experiences. This resentation shares preliminary findings from an ongoing qualitative phenomenological study exploring how minority college students experience and navigate AI in academic settings.

Early findings reveal a complex relationship with AI. Participants describe AI as a tool that can support writing, learning, confidence, and access to academic resources while also raising questions about authentic voice, independent thinking, cultural representation, unequal access, dependency, and academic integrity. Students are not simply deciding whether to use AI; they are actively negotiating when AI supports their learning and when it begins to replace their own thinking or authorship.

These findings are particularly relevant to Southern Colorado's diverse educational communities. Attendees will gain a student-centered perspective on responsible AI use and consider how institutions can develop ethical and equitable AI practices without overlooking the voices of the students most affected by them.

About the presenter: Tony Bobadilla, PhD, LCSW, is a faculty member in the Department of Social Work at Colorado State University Pueblo. His teaching, research, and professional interests include higher education, student success, equity, and the ethical use of emerging technologies. His current qualitative research explores the lived experiences of minority college students using artificial intelligence in higher education, with particular attention to academic identity, authentic voice, belonging, equity, and responsible AI use. As a licensed clinical social worker and educator, Dr. Bobadilla brings a student-centered and equity-focused perspective to conversations about AI and higher education.

Beyond the Prompt: Building Socio-Technical AI Fluency Across Classrooms and Boardrooms

Presented by **Angie Dodson**
University of Colorado Colorado Springs

Summary: Educational institutions and businesses face a shared dilemma: deploying AI tools without clear operational frameworks creates fragmented policies, workforce anxiety, and ethical risks rather than productive innovation. Drawing on mixed-methods research exploring socio-technical systems and innovation diffusion, this hands-on workshop demonstrates that technical coding skill is not the primary driver of AI adoption. Instead, successful integration relies on conversational fluency, contextual alignment, and transparent human-in-the-loop workflows.

Participants engage in a 45-minute collaborative session to 1) examine a tiered integration model adaptable to academic assignments and business task-delegation, 2) formulate verification and "auditable thinking" protocols to mitigate hallucinations and preserve ethical accountability, and 3) apply reverse-mentoring strategies that leverage emerging generational AI literacy.

Southern Colorado's growing tech and educational ecosystems require shared standards between regional educations and industry partners. Attendees will leave with actionable, cross-sector AI use guidelines, collaborative workflow templates, and ready-to-implement strategies that bridge classroom competencies with regional workforce expectations.

About the presenter: Dodson is the faculty development coordinator at CU Colorado Springs and an educational leadership, research, and policy doctoral student. With 26 years in education, her research examines faculty AI adoption in higher. As a practitioner, she guides faculty in developing ethical AI pedagogy and teaches first-year students to cultivate ethical AI decision-making compasses for academic and professional contexts. She has presented her research nationally and is preparing publications of her work.

Keep critical thinking at the center of learning in the age of AI

Presented by **Ryan Merry**
Director at Packback (Event Sponsor)

Summary: Higher education is at a crossroads with AI. Detection tools have become a losing game. They are unreliable, quickly outpaced by new models, and prone to false positives that erode trust between students and faculty. Meanwhile, generative AI lets students produce polished output while hiding the thinking behind it, leaving educators unable to prove that real learning happened.

This session reframes the problem: rather than policing AI use, institutions can redesign assessment to make the learning process visible. We'll show how to name the durable skills AI can't replace, including critical thinking, communication, collaboration, and creativity; shift from one-and-done assignments to process-based methods; and capture proof points that faculty and accreditors can trust.

Grounded in peer-reviewed efficacy research and a live platform demonstration, the session offers a concrete, evidence-backed approach for Colorado institutions. From the CU and CSU systems to community colleges like Pueblo, campuses across the state are navigating the same engagement, retention, and academic-integrity pressures.

About the presenter: Merry is a Regional Partnership Director at Packback, where he helps colleges and universities put AI-powered tools to work in service of student engagement and critical thinking. The son of two educators, he has spent his career in higher education, partnering with faculty and academic leaders to adopt new technology thoughtfully. He is currently pursuing his MBA at the University of Iowa's Tippie College of Business.

Deploying AI Workers in Your Business: A Real-World Case Study with Real Estate Brokerages

Presented by **Kevin Yang**
Table Media Group, Inc.

Summary: AI, like all the big technologies before it such as Internet and mobile, is changing what's possible for business owners and how business owners operate. But, the gap between promise and the reality is still very wide. There's more noise than signal, more tools than time, and more pressure to "do something with AI" than clear guidance on where it actually creates value.

This talk will guide business owners through everything they need to know about AI. This isn't another talk on how to prompt Claude. We'll walk through how businesses are using AI to automate their operations. We'll use real estate brokerage as a case study, an industry we went deep into, to show exactly how that process works in practice. From identifying the highest-value workflows to building AI workers that handle compliance, agent onboarding, and day-to-day support, it's a concrete example of what thoughtful AI implementation actually looks like and what it takes to get there.

About the presenter: Kevin Yang is the co-founder and CEO of Serif.AI. A Stanford graduate, he previously built and sold a web automation startup backed by Sequoia Capital. At Meta he worked on applied machine learning and computer vision. He started Serif to build AI that works for and can be trained by everyday business owners to actually help make their work easier with technology.

Your AI Partner: Practical AI Strategies for Busy Professionals

Presented by **Allison Duke**
Pueblo Community College

Summary: Across Colorado's higher education institutions and community organizations, educators, staff, and professionals face heavy cognitive loads and the relentless rhythm of interruptions and task switching. We know what needs to get done. Getting there is another story. Juggling competing priorities sometimes leaves us staring at our screens, wondering what to do next.

We're told AI will save us time. But generic outputs that miss the mark can take just as long to fix as they would have taken to do ourselves. This session introduces a practical, human-centered alternative: using AI as a personal thinking partner rather than a shortcut.

Drawing directly from real-world administrative workflows at Pueblo Community College, this session demonstrates how reference documents and structured daily check-in rhythms transform standard AI into a reliable external brain that matches tasks to available focus and energy, and keeps you oriented when interruptions pull you off course.

Attendees will leave with concrete, accessible strategies to shift from AI content generation to low-friction collaboration that preserves personal voice, reduces mental fatigue, and supports diverse working styles across Southern Colorado workplaces.

About the presenter: Duke serves as administrative support for the Dean of Business and Advanced Technology at PCC. Drawing on nearly a decade of experience in educational administration and library services, she has developed practical, human-centered AI workflows that reduce mental load and

support sustainable productivity. Her presentation reflects what actually works in a busy, interruption-heavy office environment.

Ctrl + Alt + Verify: Debugging Excel Formulas and Macros with BoodleBox

Presented by **Haley Hegeman**
Pikes Peak State College

Summary: Raw Excel files often require cleanup, formulas, and automation, but building reliable spreadsheet tools can be difficult when users are troubleshooting formulas, VBA scripts, workbook references, and unexpected data issues. This interactive workshop demonstrates how BoodleBox can support the full spreadsheet development cycle: clarifying the task, generating formulas or macro drafts, explaining VBA logic, debugging errors, testing outputs, and documenting the final process.

Drawing from recent hands-on macro development work with Pikes Peak State College scheduling and contracting, the session highlights a key lesson: AI is most effective when used iteratively, not passively. Participants will learn how to prompt BoodleBox with real error messages, compare formula-based and macro-based solutions, identify edge cases, and verify results before using automation in consequential workflows The topic is relevant to Colorado educators, staff, businesses, and community organizations that rely on Excel but may lack advanced coding support.

About the presenter: Hegeman serves as the Technical and Professional Studies Division Support Specialist and a Sign Language Interpreter instructor at Pikes Peak State College. A musician, educator, and avid Excel sheet wrangler, she brings creativity, precision, and practical problem-solving to her work. She is passionate about helping colleagues navigate emerging technologies through approachable, hands-on learning that reduces overwhelm and turns complex tools into useful, sustainable workflows.

AI-Powered Classroom Responses: Building, Training, and Ethically Using Custom Bots for Student Engagement

Presented by **Adrian Banister**
Pueblo Community College

Summary: What if you could cut the time spent responding to routine student introductions in half, while still making each student feel personally acknowledged? This workshop walks through how to build and train a custom AI bot that mimics your teaching voice and generates personalized responses to repetitive assignments.

We'll explore the practical workflow: collecting student submissions, crafting your own responses, and using AI to refine them into training material. But here's the real conversation: Is this ethical? When does AI assistance cross the line from time-saving tool to academic shortcut? We'll examine where this approach works (low-stakes, throwaway assignments) and where it doesn't (high-stakes work like term papers), giving you a framework for deciding what's appropriate in your own courses.

About the presenter: Banister is a full-time business faculty member at Pueblo Community College with seven years of teaching experience. He specializes in economics and entrepreneurship, teaching courses in business statistics, entrepreneurial finance, and feasibility studies. He also provides small business consulting, and recently developed a feasibility study and business plan that helped a client secure a $500,000 investment from an individual investor.

Building the Future: AI Chatbots & Agents in 2026 Presented by Justin Pack

Pueblo Community College

Summary: AI is rapidly evolving from simple text-based responses to active, automated execution. This session explores the fundamental shift from basic chatbots to proactive AI agents capable of using tools, integrating across platforms, and running locally for enhanced privacy.

About the presenter: Pack is a Cybersecurity faculty member in PCC's CIS program.

PCC Students put AI on Trial

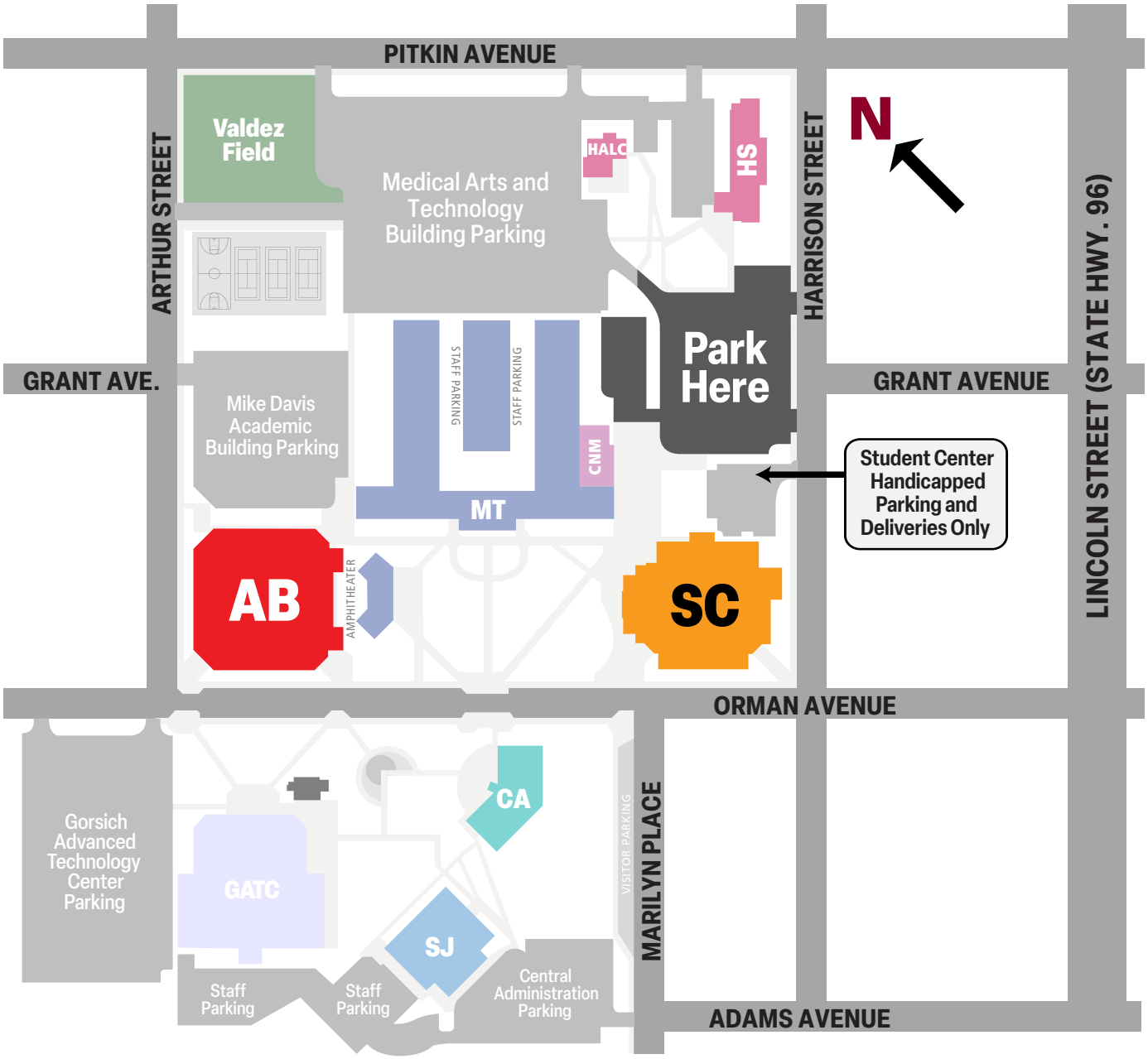
Step into the courtroom as PCC Technical Writing students put artificial intelligence on trial. In this interactive session, the audience serves as both judge and jury, weighing evidence on some of today's most pressing AI controversies — including the environmental footprint of data centers, the ethical implications of AI in human relationships, and the high-stakes deployment of autonomous technology in warfare.

NextGenVisionaries: Student AI Competition

The next generation of innovators steps up to face a panel of industry experts! High school and pre-college teams from District 70 and PCC Gateway will demonstrate critical thinking, ethical decision-making, and AI collaboration to tackle real business challenges.Qualifying teams will earn certificates from BoodleBox, and SunWest Credit Union will award mini-grants to the teachers of the top three teams. Huge thanks to our participating local businesses: Front Range Fencing & Deck, Property Craft, The Media Center, and Table Media Group.

Pueblo Community College

SoCo&AI



AB Academic Building

- Presentations held in Hoag Theater on the lower level

SC Student Center

- Presentations held on the upper level in Fortino Ballrooms/Conference Room