

PRAIRIE

Husker AI Days



April 13–24, 2026 | University of Nebraska–Lincoln

<https://engineering.unl.edu/husker-ai-days/>

Two weeks of workshops, showcases, and conversations exploring how artificial intelligence is shaping teaching, research, and work across campus. Husker AI Days brings together industry leaders from Google, Microsoft, OpenAI, and MathWorks alongside UNL students, staff, and faculty for hands-on learning, live competitions, and open dialogue. Browse the schedule, find what fits your interests and availability, and join us!

Husker AI Days is presented by the **PRAIRIE Initiative** (Pioneering Responsible AI for Research, Innovation, and Education) with support from the NU AI Institute, College of Education and Human Sciences, College of Business, Holland Computing Center, and IANR.

Schedule at a Glance

Date	Event	Time	Location
Mon, April 13	Inside Outside Summit	8:30 AM – 5:00 PM	Sheldon Museum of Art
Mon, April 13	Student Promptathon	3:00 – 5:00 PM	Kiewit Hall A203
Tue, April 14	Google Day	10:00 AM – 4:45 PM	Kiewit Hall
Wed, April 15	MathWorks Day	8:30 AM – 4:00 PM	Kiewit Hall
Wed, April 15	AI Commons for Libraries	2:30 – 4:00 PM	Love Library
Thu, April 16	Teaching & Learning: Shared Language	1:00 – 3:30 PM	Kiewit Hall A310
Fri, April 17	Student Spotlight	4:00 – 6:00 PM	Kiewit Hall A235
Fri, April 17	Ghost in the Machine Screening	7:00 – 10:00 PM	CPEH Auditorium
Mon, April 20	HCC: Intro to AI & ML	10:00 AM – 4:30 PM	Nebraska Hall 213
Tue, April 21	Microsoft Day	9:30 AM – 4:45 PM	Kiewit Hall
Wed, April 22	OpenAI Day	9:00 AM – 12:00 PM	CPEH 227
Wed, April 22	Great Prairie Prompting Show	4:00 – 7:00 PM	CPEH 227
Thu, April 23	NU Graduate College Workshop	8:00 AM – 3:50 PM	East Campus Union
Fri, April 24	COE Capstone Showcase	1:30 – 3:30 PM	Kiewit Hall

Who Should Attend

Husker AI Days is for the entire UNL community. Faculty exploring how AI can support their teaching and research. Staff navigating new tools in their daily work. Students building skills and careers in an AI-shaped world. Administrators thinking about what comes next. Industry and community partners who want to be part of the conversation.

Sessions range from introductory conversations to hands-on workshops to deep dives into specific tools and applications. Whether you're just getting curious or already building with AI, there's something here for you. Pick what fits your schedule and your interests.

Full Timeline

Monday, April 13

Inside Outside Summit

8:30 AM – 5:00 PM | Sheldon Museum of Art

The Inside Outside Innovation Summit brings together entrepreneurs, innovators, and corporate leaders to explore emerging trends in technology and business. This is an independently organized event that kicks off Husker AI Days week. Separate registration required.

[Register for the Inside Outside Summit](#)

Student Promptathon

3:00 – 5:00 PM | Kiewit Hall A203

A student competition in two rounds. In “Is It Fake?”, teams create photorealistic AI-generated images and the audience votes on what’s real and what’s AI. In the showcase round, teams present AI-powered videos, demos, and prototypes. Awards for best deception, most innovative project, and best department participation.

Competition with prizes · Open to all students

Tuesday, April 14 — Google Day

A full day with Google exploring Gemini Enterprise, AI-powered research tools, and hands-on agent building.

Google’s team joins us for a day of workshops and demonstrations built around their Gemini Enterprise platform. The morning opens with a fireside chat on the future of AI in higher education, followed by a Gemini capabilities primer. The afternoon splits into two parallel hands-on workshops where you’ll build AI agents for campus workflows or explore NotebookLM and Deep Research for academic work.

Highlighted sessions:

Keynote Fireside Chat: The Future of AI in Higher Education (10:00 – 10:30 AM, Kiewit Hall A203)

Reimagining Higher Ed with AI: From Grant Applications to Academic Advising (11:20 – 11:50 AM, Kiewit Hall A235)

AI-Assisted Career Search for Students (11:50 AM – 12:20 PM, Kiewit Hall A235)

Hands-On Workshop: Building AI Agents for Campus Workflows (1:30 – 3:00 PM, Kiewit Hall A310)

Hands-On Workshop: NotebookLM & Deep Research for Higher Ed (3:00 – 4:30 PM, Kiewit Hall A549)

Wednesday, April 15 — MathWorks Day

A full day with MathWorks exploring AI in industry, hands-on low-code AI tools, and AI safety in critical systems.

MathWorks brings their expertise in MATLAB, Simulink, and applied AI for a day that moves from industry perspective to hands-on practice. The morning features a presentation on AI in industry and a live demo of MathWorks’ generative and agentic AI tools. The afternoon includes a workshop on AI with signals and images and a session on AI in safety-critical systems.

Highlighted sessions:

AI in Industry (9:00 – 9:45 AM, Kiewit Hall A251)

Low-Code AI Workshop (10:45 AM – 12:15 PM, Kiewit Hall A549)

AI in Safety-Critical Systems (2:45 – 3:30 PM, Kiewit Hall A211)

Wednesday, April 15 — University Libraries

Toward an AI Commons for Libraries: Where We Are and Where We Might Go From Here

2:30 – 4:00 PM | Love Library South, Auditorium 102 (also available via Zoom)

A conversation about the role of libraries in building shared AI infrastructure and resources for the campus community. Available in person and online.

No experience needed · Open to everyone · Hybrid (in-person and Zoom)

[More information](#)

Thursday, April 16

From Shared Language to Shared Practice: An Open Dialogue with the PRAIRIE Teaching & Learning Community of Practice

1:00 – 3:30 PM | Kiewit Hall A310

A two-part session from the Prairie Teaching & Learning Community of Practice. In the Show & Tell opening, faculty share short examples, demos, and informal overviews of how they are using AI in teaching, a lab, or research. The session then moves into a guided discussion on shared language, building a common vocabulary for how we talk about AI in the classroom. Designed for faculty and instructors who are curious, cautious, or already experimenting with AI in their courses. Students and staff are welcome as part of the audience. No prior AI experience required.

Friday, April 17

Student Spotlight

4:00 – 6:00 PM | Kiewit Hall A235

Students showcase their AI work through two parallel formats: Lightning Talks (3-minute presentations on a problem, an AI approach, and the impact) and E-Posters (digital posters displayed on screens). Projects are judged by faculty and industry partners, with awards in both categories. If you're a student who wants to present, indicate your interest when registering.

Open to all students · Presenters and audience welcome · Prizes awarded

Friday, April 17 — Evening

University-Wide AI Discussion Day — Film Screening: Ghost in the Machine

7:00 – 10:00 PM | Carolyn Pope Edwards Hall Auditorium

As part of University-Wide AI Discussion Day, we are hosting a public screening of Ghost in the Machine. Open to faculty, staff, and students across the NU community. Light refreshments provided. The screening is intended to serve as a shared point of reflection and discussion within the broader, day-long campus conversation on artificial intelligence.

Open to everyone · Light refreshments provided

Monday, April 20

Introduction to Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning using HCC

10:00 AM – 4:30 PM | Nebraska Hall 213

A full-day workshop from UNL's Holland Computing Center covering the fundamentals of AI and machine learning using campus high-performance computing resources. Separate registration required.

No experience needed · Bring your laptop · Full-day commitment

[Register for the HCC Workshop](#)

Tuesday, April 21 — Microsoft Day

A full day with Microsoft exploring M365 Copilot, GitHub Copilot, AI agents, and career pathways, with sessions designed for faculty, staff, and students.

Microsoft's team, led by Sam Bhatia and a six-person crew, spends the day on campus with sessions tailored to different audiences. The morning opens with a keynote and Copilot overview, then splits into parallel breakouts for faculty and staff. The afternoon features a fireside chat with the University of Kentucky, hands-on Copilot labs, a GitHub Copilot deep dive, student career conversations, and a research and innovation track. The day closes with open office hours.

Highlighted sessions:

Opening Keynote with Sam Bhatia (9:30 – 10:00 AM, Kiewit Hall A203)

No experience needed · Open to everyone

M365 Copilot for Faculty (11:00 AM – 12:00 PM, Kiewit Hall A510)

Designed for faculty · See how Copilot supports teaching and productivity

M365 Copilot for Staff/Operations (11:00 AM – 12:00 PM, Kiewit Hall A235)

Designed for staff · No experience needed · Learn to use Copilot in your daily workflow

From Classroom to Commonwealth: A Fireside Chat with University of Kentucky (12:45 – 1:20 PM, Kiewit Hall A310)

No experience needed · Open to everyone

Hands-On Lab: M365 Copilot Promptathon (1:30 – 2:30 PM, Kiewit Hall A310)

Bring your laptop · Copilot license required · Hands-on

Understanding Agents with Copilot Studio (1:30 – 2:30 PM, Kiewit Hall A510)

Designed for staff and administrators · No coding experience needed

GitHub Copilot: AI Pair Programmer to AI Coding Teammate (2:30 – 3:25 PM, Kiewit Hall A235)

For developers and researchers who write code

From Husker to Hired: AI Careers Unlocked (Ask Microsoft Anything) (3:30 – 4:15 PM, Kiewit Hall A510)

Designed for students · Informal, bring your questions

AI for Research and Innovation (3:30 – 4:15 PM, Kiewit Hall A541)

Designed for faculty and researchers

Office Hours with Microsoft (4:15 – 4:45 PM, Kiewit Hall A541)

Open to everyone · Drop in with any question

Wednesday, April 22 — OpenAI Day

A morning with OpenAI exploring ChatGPT Edu, Codex, and the future of AI tools in higher education.

OpenAI visits campus for a morning of sessions at the College of Business. The day covers ChatGPT Edu (the university-licensed version of ChatGPT), a Codex session designed for both coders and non-coders, and open office hours where you can bring your questions directly to the OpenAI team.

Highlighted sessions:

ChatGPT Edu (9:00 – 9:45 AM, CPEH 227)

No experience needed · Open to everyone

Codex Session (10:00 – 11:15 AM, CPEH 227)

For both coders and non-coders · Hands-on

Office Hours with OpenAI (11:30 AM – 12:00 PM, CPEH 227)

Open to everyone · Drop in with any question

Wednesday, April 22 — Evening

The Great Prairie Prompting Show

4:00 – 7:00 PM | Carolyn Pope Edwards Hall 227

The signature event of Husker AI Days. Four mixed teams of faculty and students compete across three rounds to design, prototype, and defend AI-supported solutions to real teaching and learning challenges.

Hosted by Guy Trainin with a game-show format, live audience voting via QR code, and prizes. Teams are judged on educational impact, responsible AI design, and the balance between human and AI roles. Whether you're competing or watching, this is the event that brings the whole community together.

Open to everyone · Competition with prizes · Food provided

Thursday, April 23

NU Graduate College Workshop

8:00 AM – 3:50 PM | East Campus Union, Great Plains Room

A system-wide workshop hosted by the NU AI Institute and Graduate College. The morning session (8:00 AM – 1:00 PM) is designed for faculty, and the afternoon session (11:30 AM – 3:50 PM) is designed for graduate students. Separate registration required.

Two sessions: faculty (morning) and students (afternoon)

[Register for the Graduate College Workshop](#)

Friday, April 24

COE Capstone Showcase

1:30 – 3:30 PM | Kiewit Hall

Senior engineering students present their capstone projects, many of which incorporate AI tools and methods. A celebration of applied learning and a window into how the next generation of engineers is working with AI.

Open to everyone

Design Your Pathway

Not sure where to start? Here are three suggested paths based on where you are with AI. Mix, match, or ignore them entirely.

“I’m curious but haven’t really started”

You’ve heard about AI tools but haven’t had a chance to explore them in a structured way. These sessions will give you a clear foundation and practical starting points.

- 1. Google Day: Keynote Fireside Chat** (Tue April 14, 10:00 AM) — A big-picture conversation about where AI is heading in higher education. Great context for everything else.
- 2. Microsoft Day: M365 Copilot for Staff/Operations or Faculty** (Tue April 21, 11:00 AM) — See how AI tools work inside the applications you already use every day.
- 3. The Great Prairie Prompting Show** (Wed April 22, 4:00 PM) — Watch teams design AI solutions in real time. You’ll learn by watching the process unfold, and the game-show format makes it fun.

“I’m using AI tools and want to go deeper”

You’ve tried ChatGPT or Copilot and want to move beyond the basics. These sessions will push your skills forward with hands-on practice and expert guidance.

- 1. Google Day: Building AI Agents for Campus Workflows** (Tue April 14, 1:30 PM) — Hands-on workshop where you’ll build functional AI agents. Bring your laptop.
- 2. MathWorks Day: Low-Code AI Workshop** (Wed April 15, 10:45 AM) — Build AI workflows without writing extensive code. Practical and applicable across disciplines.
- 3. Microsoft Day: Hands-On Copilot Promptathon** (Tue April 21, 1:30 PM) — Sharpen your prompting skills in a structured lab with Microsoft’s team. Copilot license required.

“I want to build, compete, and connect”

You’re ready to get your hands dirty and meet the people shaping AI in your field. These sessions are participatory, competitive, and career-oriented.

- 1. Student Promptathon** (Mon April 13, 3:00 PM) — Compete in AI image generation and showcase your best AI projects. Prizes awarded.
- 2. Student Spotlight (Fri April 17, 4:00 PM) — Present your AI work as a Lightning Talk or E-Poster, judged by faculty and industry partners.**
- 3. OpenAI Day: Codex Session** (Wed April 22, 10:00 AM) — Hands-on with OpenAI’s coding tools, designed for both coders and non-coders.
- 4. From Husker to Hired: AI Careers Unlocked** (Tue April 21, 3:30 PM) — Ask Microsoft’s team anything about building a career in AI.

Practical Details

Registration

Most Husker AI Days events are free and open to the UNL community. Register once to select the sessions you plan to attend. Some events require separate registration (noted in the session descriptions).

<https://engineering.unl.edu/husker-ai-days/>

Locations

Events take place across several UNL venues. Most sessions are in Kiewit Hall on City Campus. Check individual session listings for specific room numbers. The Graduate College Workshop is at the East Campus Union, and the Inside Outside Summit is at the Sheldon Museum of Art. OpenAI Day and the Great Prairie Prompting Show are at Carolyn Pope Edwards Hall.

What to bring

For hands-on workshops, bring a laptop with your UNL credentials ready. For all other sessions, just bring yourself and your curiosity.

Food and refreshments

Coffee and light refreshments are provided at most sessions. Lunch is provided on Google Day (April 14) and Microsoft Day (April 21), but registration is required. We will have pizza for the Great Prairie Prompting Show (April 22 evening).

Parking

Campus visitors can use the public parking garage at 17th and R Streets, located two blocks south of Kiewit Hall, with entrances off R and Q Streets; parking is available for a fee of \$1.50 per hour with a \$10 daily maximum, payable by credit or debit card only.

Accessibility

All venues are ADA accessible. If you need accommodations, please contact us when registering and we'll make sure you're taken care of.

Questions?

Reach out to the PRAIRIE Initiative team:

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Husker AI Days is presented by the PRAIRIE Initiative, College of Engineering, University of Nebraska–Lincoln. With thanks to our partners: Google, Microsoft, OpenAI, MathWorks, the Holland Computing Center, the NU AI Institute, University Libraries, the College of Education and Human Sciences, and the Inside Outside Innovation community.