

AI, Education, and the Future of Compassion

Blaine Booher

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Opening

I just returned from a Buddhist monastery in the redwoods.
There, I discovered:

- Meditation helps my ADHD in surprising ways.
- Nondualism resonates as a model of reality.
- Ego dissolution → compassion and connection.

Question: What role might AI play in this unfolding story?

Frame for Today

AI is rapidly reshaping education.

But the key question isn't *what AI can do...*

It's **what values we embed** into these systems.

🌱 Optional layer:

Like waves that believe they are separate from the ocean, we sometimes mistake separateness. But learning — and AI — remind us of our interconnection.

AI in Education: What We Know

- Adaptive tutoring systems personalize learning (Zawacki-Richter, 2019).
- AI can assist grading, accessibility, and reflection.
- Risks: bias, over-surveillance, inequity (UNESCO, 2021).

Takeaway: AI amplifies values already present in education.

Opportunity

- Free human teachers for **connection, mentorship, compassion**.
- Support learners with **equity and accessibility**.
- Build systems that reflect not only **knowledge**, but also **wisdom**.

🌱 Optional reflection:

AI can hold the “thinking mind” role → freeing humans to embody presence, empathy, and care.

