



COMET

CONFERENCE ON MODERN EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY

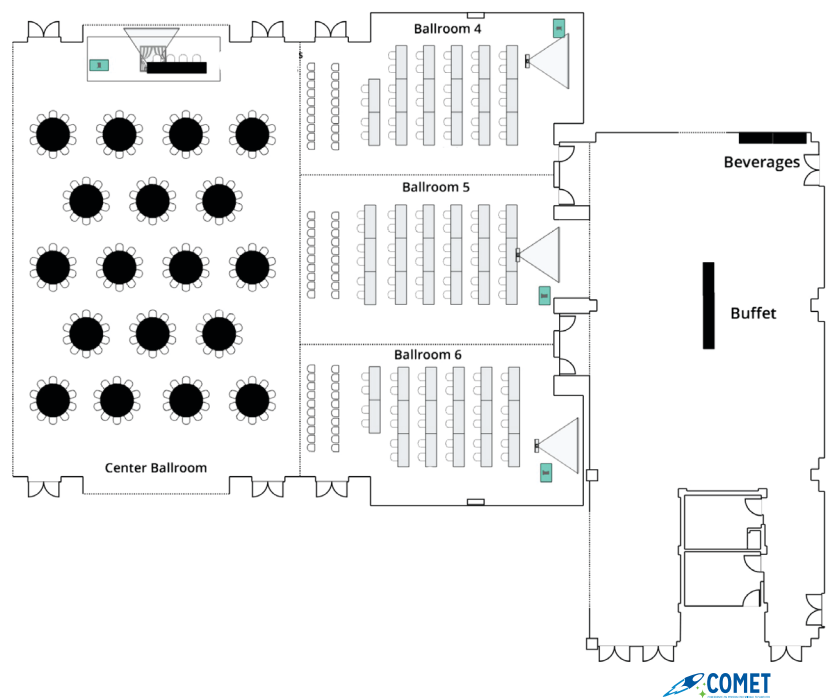


2025

THE AI FRONTIER

Welcome to COMET 2025: the AI Frontier, where cutting-edge ideas in modern educational technology meet innovative practice. We are delighted to host you at Cleveland Community College in Shelby, NC, a place where community, creativity, and collaboration converge. Over the course of today's events, immerse yourself in inspiring sessions, thought-provoking discussions, and transformative experiences that will empower your teaching and learning. Thank you for joining us on this exciting journey into the future of education.

Event Map



Agenda

Registration/Breakfast 8:00 AM - 8:45 AM			
Opening Remarks Dr. Jason Hurst Center Ballroom 8:45 AM - 9:00 AM			
Opening Keynote Vera Cubero Good, Bad, and Ugly: AI in Education 9:00 AM - 9:50 AM			
Dr. Lane Freeman Center Ballroom 10:00 AM - 12:15 PM	Anthology Ballroom 4 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM	College of the Albemarle Ballroom 5 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM	UNC-Charlotte Ballroom 6 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM
	Khan Academy Ballroom 4 11:15 AM - 12:15 PM	Vera Cubero Ballroom 5 11:15 AM - 12:15 PM	Dr. Tim Scapin Ballroom 6 11:15 AM - 12:15 PM
Lunch/Panel Discussion Vera Cubero, Dr. Jonathan Davis, Dr. Lane Freeman, Donté Perry Moderator: Derek Ramsey 12:15 PM - 1:50 PM			
Derek Ramsey Center Ballroom 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM	Khan Academy Ballroom 4 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM	Donté Perry Ballroom 5 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM	Dr. Tim Scapin Ballroom 6 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM
Closing Remarks/Door Prizes 3:15 PM - 4:00 PM			

Keynote Speaker



**Vera
Cubero**

Vera Cubero is the Emerging Technologies Consultant for the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction, where she leads the state's AI implementation initiatives in K-12 education. She chairs NC's AI Implementation Steering Committee and directs the NC AI Collaboratives, guiding district leaders in policy development and AI literacy. A recognized AI in education expert, she serves on the Southern Regional Education Board's Commission on Artificial Intelligence in Education and the EdSafe Alliance AI Catalyst Fellowship. Her work has been featured at major conferences including ISTE and ASCD 2024, where she was a Main Stage speaker.

A Google Certified Trainer since 2014, she authored NC's comprehensive AI implementation guidelines for PK-13 schools and actively contributes to national discussions on responsible AI integration in education through numerous panels, podcasts, and publications.

Good, Bad, and Ugly: AI in Education

We will explore the complexities of AI in education, focusing on both its benefits and potential risks and the importance of equitable and responsible implementation. Participants will gain an awareness of the new and promising capabilities of AI and its potential to help humanity while also gaining awareness of threats such as deepfake videos, audio manipulations, and other AI-driven security challenges.

Breakout Sessions

◆ **10:00 AM - 11:00 AM**

AI in Education: Strategies for Classroom Success

Presenter(s): Dr. Lane Freeman

Location: Center Ballroom

This interactive two-hour session explores the role of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in both 6-12 and higher education, providing practical insights for educators at all levels. Participants will engage in hands-on activities to understand how AI-powered tools, including Large Language Models (LLMs), can enhance student learning, streamline lesson planning, and personalize assessments. Bring your laptops! ***This session runs through both morning sessions from 10:00 AM - 12:15 PM.***

Anthology Ethical AI World Tour

Presenter(s): Anthology

Location: Ballroom 4

After traveling across the globe - 25 cities in all - the Anthology Ethical AI World Tour is coming to Shelby, NC! Join us as we set the scene of the path to generative AI, review the five core considerations for Ethical AI in education, and discuss how generative AI can inspire pedagogy. We are so excited to have you join us as we help institutions map out a responsible path to adopt AI in teaching and learning.

Empowering Educators: How Faculty Are Using AI to Revolutionize Teaching and Workflows

Presenter(s): Laura Morrison, Michelle Ford, & Mary Forsblom,

College of the Albemarle

Location: Ballroom 5

This session explores practical strategies for integrating AI into classroom instruction and faculty workflows, from lesson planning and grading to enhancing student research and critical thinking. Through interactive demonstrations and discussions, participants will learn to leverage AI responsibly while navigating ethical considerations and academic integrity.

Navigating Generative AI in Higher Education: Opportunities, Challenges, and Perspectives

Presenter(s): Dr. Beth Oyarzun & Dr. Stella Kim, UNC-Charlotte

Location: Ballroom 6

This session examines the evolving landscape of generative AI in higher education by presenting survey-based insights into instructors' and students' perspectives on integrating tools like ChatGPT into coursework. It addresses both the opportunities for innovation and the challenges, including concerns over inaccuracies, biases, and academic integrity.

✦ **11:15 AM - 12:15 PM**

Introduction to Khan Academy and Khanmigo

Presenter(s): Renee Venegas & Raven Casseus, Khan Academy

Location: Ballroom 4

This exploratory session is designed to familiarize participants with Khanmigo as an AI tool. This sessions focuses on understanding Khanmigo's functionality as well as providing insights on understanding the students journey, enabling teachers to better support student usage.

The NC AI Guidelines: A Deep Dive

Presenter(s): Vera Cubero

Location: Ballroom 5

Take a deep dive into one of the most well-known and respected state guidance documents in the country, the NC AI Guidelines for Generative AI, with the main contributor, Vera Cubero. We will explore the guidelines together and have time for Q& A and discussion.

Leveraging AI for Rubric Creation and Student Self-Assessment

Presenter(s): Dr. Tim Scapin

Location: Ballroom 6

This session explores how AI simplifies the design of effective, standards-aligned rubrics, enabling educators to streamline assessment and focus on personalized feedback. It also highlights how AI-powered tools promote student self-assessment, enhancing metacognition and empowering learners through actionable insights.

✦ **2:00 PM - 3:00 PM**

Be an AI Ally: Improving Online Accessibility with AI

Presenter(s): Derek Ramsey

Location: Center Ballroom

Discover how AI technologies are revolutionizing online accessibility by automating alt text generation, enhancing caption accuracy, and providing innovative solutions for individuals with disabilities. Learn best practices and real-world applications from leading companies like GIPHY and Netflix.

Leveraging Data for Student Progress and Acceleration

Presenter(s): Renee Venegas & Raven Casseus, Khan Academy

Location: Ballroom 4

This interactive session will take a deep dive into classroom and administrator data. Participants will learn how to utilize program features to quickly address student misunderstandings and maintain focus on grade level instruction with they use of the teacher and admin dashboard and the support of Khanmigo.

AI in Action: Real-World Applications for Education

Presenter(s): Donté Perry

Location: Ballroom 5

This session will explore the practical, hands-on AI applications across K-12, community colleges, and universities, demonstrating their real-world relevance. Attendees for the breakout sessions will learn how AI is transforming teaching, research, advising, and institutional efficiency beyond just classroom instruction.

Why AI Matters: Trends, Data, and Preparing Our Students for the Future

Presenter(s): Dr. Tim Scapin

Location: Ballroom 6

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is transforming industries, redefining job roles, and becoming a critical professional competency. As educators, we play a vital role in preparing our students for the future by equipping them with the skills to navigate an AI-driven world. This interactive session will present the latest data on AI adoption, employment trends, and the evolving expectations of employers. Participants will explore strategies for integrating AI literacy into their teaching through discussion and collaboration, ensuring students are future-ready. Attendees will leave with actionable insights and resources to bring back to their institutions.



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