COMET

CONFERENCE ON MODERN EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY
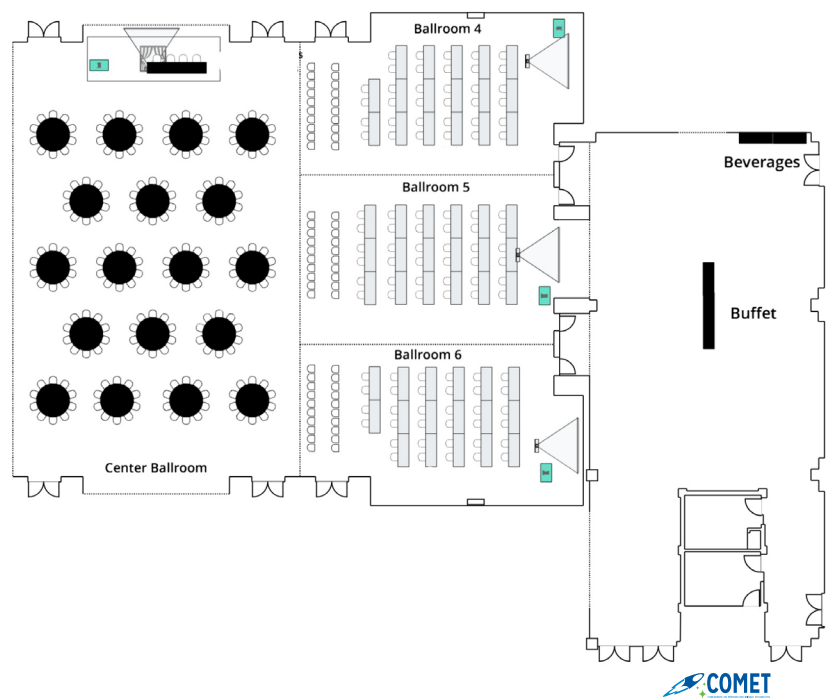
THE AI FRONTIER

2025

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 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/Keynote Dr. Torrey Trust From ChatGPT to Grammarly: Balancing Innovation, Integrity, and Ethics 12:15 PM - 1:50 PM			
Dr. Torrey Trust 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
Panel Discussion Vera Cubero, Dr. Jonathan Davis, Dr. Lane Freeman, Donté Perry Moderator: Derek Ramsey Center Ballroom 3:15 PM - 3:45 PM			
Closing Remarks 3:45 PM - 4:00 PM			

Keynote Speaker

Dr. Torrey Trust

Dr. Torrey Trust is a Professor of Learning Technology at the University of Massachusetts Amherst whose research examines the intersection of teaching, learning, and technology. She specializes in digital professional learning networks, emerging pedagogical tools and practices, and open educational resources. Dr. Trust's pioneering work in educational technology has earned numerous accolades, including the 2020 AECT Annual Achievement Award and the 2023 UMass Amherst Distinguished Teaching Award.

A recognized thought leader in higher education technology, she was named among the Top 30 Higher Ed IT Influencers in both 2020 and 2024. Her commitment to improving digital learning opportunities was honored with the 2018 ISTE Making IT Happen Award, and her research has garnered multiple awards from AERA, ISTE, and MERLOT.

From ChatGPT to Grammarly: Balancing Innovation, Integrity, and Ethics in the Age of AI

Students today have access to AI tools that can write for them, take lecture notes, summarize readings, brainstorm ideas, and even "learn" for them…but should they use these tools? This session will explore how generative AI (GenAI) technologies work, the ethical considerations of using these technologies for teaching and learning, and how to design academic integrity policies that demonstrate an informed position on GenAI use in the classroom.

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.

✦ <u>11:15 AM - 12:15 PM</u>

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.

✦ <u>2:00 PM - 3:00 PM</u>

Academic Integrity in the Age of AI
Presenter(s): Dr. Torrey Trust
Location: Center Ballroom

This session dives more deeply into academic integrity issues in the age of AI, features suggestions for discussing and defining academic integrity with students, and includes time to draft or revise an academic integrity statement for a class assignment or course syllabus.

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.