

# Breakout Sessions

## Friday, March 21, 2025

**9:00 AM – 9:50 AM**

**Jeremy Miller, KCTCS Assistant VP of Enterprise Systems & MCTC Adjunct Instructor**

*“Harnessing the Power of Artificial Intelligence: Today and Tomorrow”*

**Room 153**

Step into the rapidly evolving world of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and discover how to make it work for you. This session breaks down the buzz around AI, offering practical strategies to boost your productivity today and a forward-looking perspective on how AI is set to transform the tech landscape. Whether you’re just beginning your journey in technology or seeking to stay ahead of the curve, this session will empower you with insights and tools to confidently navigate AI’s HERizon.

**Daphne Hilterbrand, MCTC MIT Instructor**

*“Empowering Connection, Thriving in Remote Work.”*

**Room 201**

Remote work has transformed the computing and tech sectors, creating unique opportunities and challenges, especially for women in the field. This presentation delves into how remote work empowers women, offering flexibility, access to global opportunities, and the ability to overcome geographical and societal barriers.

**Trevor Applegate, MCTC CIT Assistant Professor**

*“Demystifying Programming: You too can do it”*

**Room 207**

A short introduction to programming concepts by utilizing drag and drop programming to navigate small robots through a maze. Attendees will learn some basics about memory architecture, data types, and logical structure through edutainment!

**Shana Savard-Hogge, MCTC Grant Specialist and Adjunct Instructor**

*“Building a Strong Personal Brand: Leveraging Digital Platforms for Career Growth”*

**Room 214**

In today's digital world, a strong personal brand is essential for professional success. This session will explore key strategies for crafting and maintaining your brand using LinkedIn, personal websites, blogging, and social media. Learn how to showcase your expertise, expand your network, and create opportunities that align with your career goals.

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**Bettina Bair, ACM-W Professional Chapter Committee Chair**

**Amanda Kauppila, co-chair of the Central Ohio ACM-W Professional Chapter**

*“Expanding and Sustaining Communities of Women in Computing with ACM-W Professional Chapters”*

**Room 113**

Attendees will learn more about the ACM-W (Association of Computing Machinery - Women) and its mission to support, advocate, and celebrate women in computing globally at every stage of their career through Student Chapters, Regional Celebrations, and Professional Chapters.

**Rebecca Morton, MCTC Career Services Coordinator**

*“Crafting a Standout Resume: Strategies for Success”*

**Room 151**

Want to land your dream job or internship in tech? This session will cover key strategies for building a strong, impactful resume tailored to technology careers. Learn how to highlight technical skills, projects, and experience in a way that catches the attention of recruiters.

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## Friday, March 21, 2025

**10:00 AM – 10:50 AM**

**Lindsey Scott, McGraw-Hill Executive Learning Technology Representative**

**Julie Jack, McGraw-Hill SIMnet Sales Specialist**

*“The power of SIMNet”*

**Room 208**

Join us for an in-depth discussion on how the McGraw Hill SIMnet platform can equip your students with essential skills in Microsoft Office Applications. With features like extended access, in-house developers, MOS content, projects tailored to disciplines like Accounting and Finance, and digital badges and credentials, SIMnet provides all the tools your students need for success. We'll also delve into Office 2024 content, Generative AI, and Copilot, while outlining future developments for SIMnet. Don't miss this opportunity!

**Carmen Gaskins, SKYCTC CIT Professor and Program Coordinator**

*“Microsoft Excel Tips & Tricks”*

**Room 207**

Our time is of the essence so no matter if you are new or an advanced user of Excel, learning keyboard shortcuts or quick ways to maneuver in the program are discussed. Want to learn something specific within the software? Your request will be answered through the Q & A demonstration.

**Kaci Foster, Executive Director of Maysville Chamber of Commerce**

*“Maximizing Success Through Mentorship and Networking”*

**Room 214**

Mentorship and networking are essential for growth and success. This session covers strategies for finding mentors, building strong networks, and leveraging relationships to advance your career. Learn how to create meaningful connections and maximize opportunities for professional development.

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## **Friday, March 21, 2025**

**Juli Jamison, instructional designer and faculty developer for the KCTCS Office of Teaching and Learning**

*“Accessibility in VR”*

**Room 153**

Explore the potential of VR in education while critically examining its accessibility challenges in this interactive session. Participants will engage with an educational VR game while using an accessibility worksheet to identify barriers and opportunities for inclusive design. Through hands-on experience, they will gain insights into both the benefits and limitations of VR for diverse learners.

**Kolby Kappes, Vice President of Development at Eliassen Group**

*“AI for Career Advancement: How Technical Women Can Leverage AI Skills”*

**Room 121**

Discover how AI skills can set you apart in the job market. This session explores in-demand AI expertise beyond data science, practical applications across technical roles, and strategies for showcasing your skills in portfolios and interviews. Learn how AI is reshaping careers and creating new opportunities to advance in tech.

**Rebecca Morton, MCTC Career Services Coordinator**

*“Crafting a Standout Resume: Strategies for Success”*

**Room 151**

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## Friday, March 21, 2025

**11:00 AM – 11:50 AM**

**Michelle Lesieur, HR Administrative Assistant at Sterling Healthcare**

*“Overcoming Imposter Syndrome and Building Confidence in the Workplace”*

**Room 113**

Struggling with self-doubt despite your achievements? You're not alone. This session will explore practical strategies to recognize and overcome imposter syndrome, helping you build confidence and own your success. Learn how to shift your mindset, leverage your strengths, and develop a resilient professional presence in any workplace.

**Bill Marshall, MCTC Adjunct Instructor, and retired founder and IT Manager of Stober Drives**

*“Harnessing Local LLMs for Smarter Retrieval-Augmented Generation”*

**Room 153**

Explore the power of using a local Large Language Model (LLM) for Retrieval-Augmented Generation (RAG). This session will walk through my hands-on experience integrating an LLM with RAG, highlighting the challenges, lessons learned, and practical applications. Whether you're new to RAG or looking to refine your own approach, this session will provide valuable insights into leveraging AI for more effective and context-aware responses.

**Michelle Wagner, MCTC Alumni and Director, Global Product Enablement at ProcessUnity**

*“Future-Proof Your Tech Career: Mastering Learning & Adaptability”*

**Room 201**

As you prepare to launch your career in tech, one of the most valuable skills you can develop isn't just coding or troubleshooting—it's learning how to learn. In a rapidly evolving landscape where tools like ChatGPT and Co-Pilot are constantly reshaping workflows, the ability to adapt, stay curious, and quickly upskill will set you apart. But technical skills alone won't be enough—empathy, ethical judgment, and strong communication are just as critical for success. This session will provide practical strategies for embracing continuous learning, navigating new technologies with confidence, and leveraging your human skills as a competitive advantage in the workforce.

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## Friday, March 21, 2025

**Kolby Kappes, Vice President of Development at Eliassen Group**

*“You Won’t Lose Your Job to AI, You’ll Lose It to Someone Using AI: Essential AI Skills for Today’s Tech Professionals”*

**Room 121**

AI isn’t replacing tech professionals—but those who harness it will have a competitive edge. This session explores practical ways to integrate AI into daily workflows, boost productivity across technical roles, and transform tasks with AI assistance. We will showcase the impact of AI and provide a roadmap for building AI literacy, no matter your technical background. Stay ahead by learning how to work smarter with AI.

**Rebecca Morton, MCTC Career Services Coordinator**

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