# Breakout Sessions

**Jeremy Miller,** *"Harnessing the Power of Artificial Intelligence: Today and Tomorrow"*

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.

**Lindsey Scott & Julie Jack,** *"The power of SIMNet"*

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!

**Daphne Hilterbrand,** *"Empowering Connection, Thriving in Remote Work."*

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.

**Carmen Gaskins,** *"Microsoft Excel Tips & Tricks"*

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.

**Michelle Lesieur,** *"Overcoming Imposter Syndrome and Building Confidence in the Workplace"*

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,** *"Harnessing Local LLMs for Smarter Retrieval-Augmented Generation"*

"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

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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."

**Bettina Bair & Amanda Kauppila,** *"Expanding and Sustaining Communities of Women in Computing with ACM-W Professional Chapters"*

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.

**Trevor Applegate,** *"Demystifying Programming: You too can do it"*

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!

**Mary Breeze,** *"Achieving a Healthy Work-Life Balance: History, Importance, Causes, and Strategies"*

This presentation will discuss the evolution of Work-Life Balance, what it means, why it is a struggle, and the importance of working toward it. Attendees will learn about current research, literature, and opinions on the topic. The presenter will also provide strategies to help accomplish a healthy integration of work and life.

**Juli Jamison,** *"Breaking Barriers: Accessibility Challenges in VR for Training and Beyond"*

Virtual Reality (VR) offers immersive training opportunities, but how accessible is it for all users? This session explores common accessibility and access pitfalls in VR, focusing on its impact on general training—not just in education, but across industries.

**Shana Savard-Hogge,** *"Building a Strong Personal Brand: Leveraging Digital Platforms for Career Growth"*

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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**Rebecca Morton,** *"Crafting a Standout Resume: Strategies for Success"*

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.

***And more sessions are being finalized!***