AI_Across the_Statewide_Curriculum }

**A partnership between
University of Florida** and
Florida Agricultural & Mechanical University

Jennifer Drew[1], Satyanarayan Dev[2], Raquel Dias[1], Sebastian Galindo[3], Jim Hoover[4], Christina Gardner-McCune[5], Aavudai Anandhi Swamy[2]

[1]Microbiology & Cell Science, College of Agricultural & Life Sciences, UF; [2]Biological Systems Engineering, College of Agriculture & Food Sciences, FAMU; [3]Agricultural Education & Communication, CALS, UF; [4]Business Analytics & Artificial Intelligence, Warrington College of Business, UF; [5]Computer & Information Science & Engineering, Herbert Wertheim College of Engineering, UF

Challenge

Developing technical expertise or relegating AI education to the computer and data science disciplines is not sufficient to develop a diverse and prepared AI workforce. Flexible, inclusive pathways that allow students of diverse educational backgrounds and technical maturity to solve the complex, real-world problems are needed.

Goal

Facilitate access to cutting- edge technologies, expertise, and experiential learning to diverse students across Florida and beyond, providing the next-generation workforce with the skills they need to work across institutional, disciplinary, and historical disparities and boundaries.

Strategy

3-year program to enhance the undergraduate curriculum and increase diversity in AI by providing direct support to 165 students and 45 faculty through scholarships, research experiences, and course development awards. The broader impact of this work will reach >1000 students.

Aims and Activities

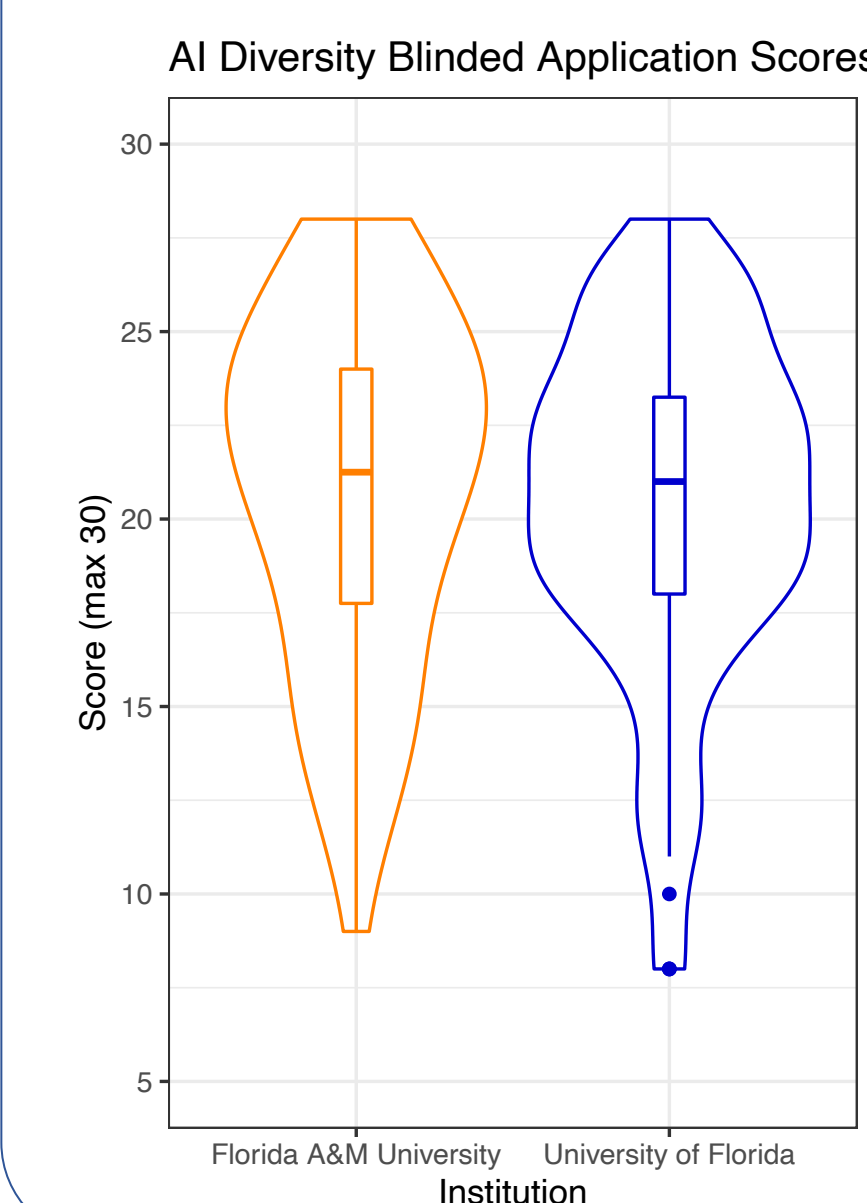| 1. Facilitate AI curriculum across FL	2. Expand participation and diversity	3. Address real-word needs	4. Assess project impact
Enhance undergrad AI curriculum at UF + FAMU: • Develop new AI courses • Revamp existing courses with AI • Upgrade AI courses with experiential learning Faculty Course Development Awards – 45 expected	Broaden participation of undergraduates Increase enrollment and access in 3-credit AI certificate program Increase diversity of backgrounds, expertise, approach AI Diversity Fellowships to Students – 30 awarded, 90 expected	Encourage student team and individual research with university and external partners Provide HiPerGator support AI Undergraduate Research Team Awards – 90 expected AI Undergraduate Individual Research Awards – 75 expected	Measure change in skills, perceptions, knowledge in students and faculty and institution Establish core competencies in undergraduate applied AI education Establish and disseminate best practices for inter-institution partnerships Sustain impact

Project Partners + Resources

UF UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA

FAMU FLORIDA AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL UNIVERSITY

Top ranked public HBCU

Results and Impact

AI Diversity Blinded Application Scores

Institution
Florida A&M University
University of Florida

AI Diversity Fellows

30 awarded In Yr 1	53% Female	60% Black or African-American	23% Hispanic or Latinx	23 Different majors

Shared application and blind scoring process reached proportional numbers of applicants and resulted in equivalent score distributions between the two institutions. Work in progress to disseminate approach as a best practice in unbiased and equitable process for student support.

Student Voices… How does your participation in this program enhance diversity in AI?

As someone who grew up in Latin America, I believe that my participation in this program will promote diversity…Primarily, by joining the program I will be shifting the ethnical demographics of involvement in A.I., which will help to accurately represent the interest in the field by the Latino community. I will encourage them to join a space where they feel heard and represented. I can attest that working with students and faculty that you can relate to immensely increases your motivation to learn and participate in class discussions. Additionally, when working in projects with members of other racial and ethnic groups, I will contribute my unique experiences and points of view not only in the classroom, but also during informal group discussions after class. This type of cultural exchange helps to promote a mutual understanding and facilitates conversations in social, academic, and professional environments. "

"there are significant problems within the world of AI speech recognition. For one, female assistants reinforce the role of women as "helpers". Within the realm of speech recognition, higher-pitched, often female voices, have lower rates of successful recognition than lower-pitched, male voices. This reflects the makeup of artificial intelligence as a science, which consists mostly of men. Through AI, I hope to improve the abilities of speech recognition software to account for more diversity in users, including gender, race, and language. ""

"As a pre-physical therapist student, I want to stress the inequities in health care I see in the United States. People of color and low-income families have historically been underserved by the medical community. Therefore, many of these communities often have feelings of distrust toward medical professionals. Having an AI option could encourage people to seek medical help by providing cost-effective and unbiased aid. The physical therapy field is already exploring AI options with apps. For example, Physitrack is an app that tracks exercises, performance, and outcomes at home. Physitrack is an alternative to patients who can not afford another session or patients who are uncomfortable asking questions to their physical therapist"

Acknowledgements

To learn more: