

The background of the slide is a faded, artistic photograph of a university campus. In the foreground, a person in a dark suit is walking away from the viewer down a wide, light-colored path, carrying several books or folders. The path is flanked by green lawns. In the background, there are large, leafy trees and a building with classical architectural features like columns. Other people are faintly visible sitting on benches in the distance.

The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education: "Innovations with AI" Program

The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education (OSRHE) "Innovations with AI" Program is a pioneering grant initiative designed to support and accelerate the implementation of artificial intelligence technologies across Oklahoma's higher education institutions. This document outlines the program's purpose, evaluation criteria, funding priorities, and submission requirements.

Program Overview and Vision

Catalyzing AI Innovation

The Innovations with AI Program represents OSRHE's commitment to fostering an environment of technological advancement and innovation across Oklahoma's higher education landscape. By providing targeted funding for AI initiatives, the program aims to position Oklahoma as a leader in educational technology.

Blueprint 2030 Alignment

This initiative directly supports the strategic goals outlined in Blueprint 2030, specifically focusing on leveraging cutting-edge technologies to enhance educational outcomes, operational efficiency, and data-driven decision-making across the state system.

Seed Funding Approach

Following successful models of previous OSRHE initiatives, this program provides "seed money" for comprehensive AI-driven projects that demonstrate potential for significant impact, replicability, and long-term sustainability within Oklahoma's higher education ecosystem.

The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education envisions a future where artificial intelligence tools seamlessly integrate into the fabric of our state's educational institutions, enhancing teaching and learning while streamlining administrative processes. This program represents a strategic investment in that future, recognizing AI's potential to address persistent challenges in higher education while opening new frontiers of opportunity.

The program encourages institutions to think boldly about AI applications while maintaining focus on practical implementations that directly benefit students, faculty, and administrative operations.

This initiative comes at a pivotal moment when AI technologies are rapidly evolving and becoming increasingly accessible. Oklahoma's higher education institutions now have a unique opportunity to thoughtfully integrate these tools into their operations, potentially transforming everything from personalized learning experiences to data acquisition strategies.

Program Purpose and Intent

This program specifically aims to catalyze the exploration and implementation of AI tools and methodologies that achieve meaningful improvements in four key areas:



Enhanced Student Experience

Projects that leverage AI to create more personalized, engaging, and effective learning environments for students at all levels.



Online Program Quality

Initiatives that use AI to improve or contribute to the assessment, delivery, and continuous enhancement of quality online educational programs.



Streamlined Data Collection

Solutions that employ AI to optimize and automate institutional data collection processes, reducing administrative burden while improving data quality.



Operational Excellence

Applications that harness AI to drive operational improvements, enhance decision-making, and increase institutional effectiveness and efficiency.

The program is designed to foster a culture of innovation and experimentation with AI technologies across Oklahoma's higher education institutions. By providing targeted funding for promising AI initiatives, OSRHE aims to accelerate the adoption of these transformative technologies in ways that align with each institution's unique mission and strengths.

Evaluation Criteria

Proposals submitted for the Innovations with AI program will undergo a rigorous evaluation process guided by a review panel and based on a set of criteria designed to identify projects with the greatest potential for meaningful impact. These criteria ensure that funded initiatives align with institutional missions, state priorities, and the overarching goals of leveraging AI to enhance Oklahoma's higher education system.



Additionally, all proposals must have the full endorsement of the institution or agency from which they originate and include a pledge that grant funds will not supplant existing institutional funding intended for the same purpose.

Upon project completion, grantees will be required to submit a comprehensive abstract to the State Regents containing a detailed description of the AI project, key outcomes (especially those related to student experience or data innovation), and a transparent budget summary showing fund expenditure.

Funding Priorities

When faced with multiple high-quality proposals of comparable merit, the Regents will prioritize initiatives that demonstrate excellence in the following areas:

- **Inter-institutional Collaboration:** Projects that promote cooperation between multiple higher education institutions in the development and sharing of AI innovations will receive favorable consideration.
- **Cross-sector Partnerships:** Initiatives that bridge higher education with other educational sectors (K-12, career tech, etc.) for broad impact across the educational ecosystem will receive enhanced favorable consideration.
- **Community Engagement:** Proposals that connect higher education with the broader community in leveraging AI and lifelong learning and training opportunities for public good will be viewed favorably.



By prioritizing collaboration and resource-sharing, we aim to maximize the impact of our investments in AI innovation across Oklahoma's higher education system.

Institutions are encouraged to consider these priorities carefully when developing their proposals and to highlight relevant collaborative arrangements or matching fund commitments in their applications.

Proposal Development Guidelines

Key Components of a Strong Proposal

Institutions preparing proposals for the Innovations with AI Program should develop comprehensive submissions that clearly articulate their vision, implementation strategy, and evaluation approach. Successful proposals typically include the following key components:

1. **Executive Summary:** A concise overview of the proposed initiative, highlighting its purpose, approach, and anticipated outcomes.
2. **Problem Statement:** A clear articulation of the specific challenge or opportunity the AI initiative addresses.
3. **Project Description:** Detailed explanation of the proposed AI application, including technical approach and implementation methodology.
4. **Alignment with Criteria:** Explicit discussion of how the proposal meets the evaluation criteria.
5. **Implementation Timeline:** A realistic schedule detailing key milestones and deliverables over the project period.
6. **Budget and Justification:** Itemized budget with clear justification for all requested funds and identification of any matching resources.
7. **Evaluation Plan:** Comprehensive strategy for assessing project effectiveness, including specific metrics and data collection methods.
8. **Sustainability Strategy:** Detailed plan for continuing the initiative beyond the grant period.

Institutions are encouraged to consult with their IT departments, faculty, and other relevant stakeholders during proposal development to ensure technical feasibility and institutional alignment.

1

Define Your AI Approach

Clearly identify private partners with AI expertise or clearly articulate AI technologies you plan to employ. Avoid vague references to "AI" without specificity.

2

Address Ethical Considerations

Proactively discuss potential ethical implications of your AI implementation, including data privacy, algorithmic bias mitigation, and transparency measures.

3

Focus on Measurable Outcomes

Define specific, quantifiable metrics that will demonstrate your project's impact on student experience, program quality, or operational efficiency.

4

Consider Technical Requirements

Realistically assess infrastructure needs, technical expertise requirements, and potential integration challenges with existing systems.

Application Process and Timeline

The anticipated timeline for the first funding cycle is outlined below, though exact dates will be confirmed in the forthcoming program announcement.

September 2025	Release of program announcement and application materials
September/October	Q&A sessions for interested institutions
November 12, 2025	Proposal submission deadline
Late November	Proposal review and evaluation period
December 2025	Award announcements and notification of funded projects
Spring 2026	Project development or implementation begins for funded initiatives
Throughout 2026	Interim progress reports and ongoing project monitoring
Spring 2027	Final project reports and outcomes assessment

The review process will involve experts with backgrounds in artificial intelligence, higher education administration, and relevant subject matter expertise.

Conclusion and Next Steps



What to Expect Next

- Application materials release
- Q&A opportunities
- Proposal submission period



How to Prepare

- Begin assembling project teams
- Identify institutional priorities
- Explore potential collaborations and partners
- Research AI applications

Institutions are encouraged to begin preliminary discussions with relevant stakeholders, including IT departments, academic leaders, student success teams, and potential external partners.

We look forward to receiving your innovative proposals. Together, we can build a future where technology enhances human potential and expands educational opportunities for all.