

## Cornerstone University Steering Committee

### AGENDA

#### Spring 2025

**Attendees:** Kim Hofstra, Scott Haid, Dan Bartels, Garret Eriks, Eli Moore, Laurie Burgess, Pam Thomas, Julie Skinner, Mario Adkins, Eli Vandyke

- I. Welcome/Introductions
- II. AI in the Classroom (Mario Adkins) - Students are going to be using AI as a form of doing the work. It is not going anywhere, so we need to learn how to embrace it and utilize it to better enhance the learning experience for students. The heart of the matter is that there is no leadership or proper guideline to help students use AI, so they are using it on their own, which leads to the problems we are experiencing. CU's Academic policy shares that we want to use AI as an educational tool, but to do so with integrity and honesty. Can AI interfere with the effectiveness and efficacy of accreditation? When using APA style, there must be reference to the AI tool being used (*OpenAI. (2023) ChatGPT (Mar 14 version) (Large language model)*). <https://chat.openai.com/chat>. You can guide and lead students on how and when to use AI in their work. It requires leadership/mentorship for this to be done well. Find strategic and innovative ways to learn.
  - A. How is your school district/building managing AI use by students? Dan - it is a challenge with AI in the schools. AI has gone so fast, a lot of times the students are more advanced with the AI than faculty. There is a lot of education that needs to happen yet, when I look at our staff, myself included, it would be great to have someone gifted in this field to educate educators about how to best use and monitor AI in the classroom. One of the bonuses for teachers is using AI for lesson plans, to better utilize time for more strategic teaching. When is a shortcut and when is it strategic? Kim - can it really accurately do assessments? Mario - Yes, it actually can do exactly what you need it to. Dan - Our kids will take a math assessment and teachers will have immediate feedback, instantly. Mario - This is what is amazing about it because it is an analytical tool. This tool can take such a cognitive load off of teachers. It will never replace face to face, but it certainly can help lighten the load for educators. Dan - There is something about students with a pencil in hand, writing answers, grading papers, etc. It gives educators the chance to see patterns, what the students are actually learning and where they need help. Mario - There are definitely ways to format a test to where AI cannot be used. There are some ways we can take essays and exams and more proactively make them AI proof.

Pam - in Preschool and elementary we don't see as much of this issue. It saved a tremendous amount of time, but there always has to be a human touch at the end. We surveyed the staff and we are all over the board. Some teachers use it frequently and others not at all. We want to approach strategizing how we can best utilize this tool as a way to help educators save time and be more efficient. Scott - We are going to double down and accelerate how we are using AI with students. We also see it as a tool to help students. We are competitive. We don't approach it as a negative in using it, but we want to create a sandbox of how to use AI and teach students to utilize it appropriately while still learning at a higher level. We are aligning with teaching students how to use it responsibly and educating students on what plagiarism actually is and why it is wrong. AI has made it very difficult for those of us in education, but it has also made it wonderful. Prompt engineering can be extremely helpful in giving educators examples and ways of teaching hard to reach students. We do a lot of professional learning around AI. When at Google headquarters, they said, "AI will not take your job, but someone using it will." We are growing professionally development in this organically. AI can rob you of learning if you let it. Garret - It is a tool to assist, but you do yourself a disservice if you use it to summarize a book, but don't actually read the book. You can have a conversation about something you haven't read. Elijah - I have never used AI to actually write an essay, only to research topics regarding the essay.

B. How are teachers and staff engaging with AI? See above.

C. Cornerstone's policy on the use of AI. See above.

D. Best practices for using AI. See above.

### III. Recruiting Cooperating Teachers

A. Need for CTs is increasing. How can we encourage more teachers to mentor future teachers? What duration of time are we looking for - 15 hours in this semester, 2 hours per week (1 day a week). Dan - You could invite the teacher into the tier 2 instruction. Allowing student to work with a few students instead of the entire classroom. Issues can be availability and logistics. Dan can give name of coordinator to set something up. Pam - Our language matters. The way we communicate the need to surround and support these student teachers to help them grow. We also take KTCT students (high school kids) and are very particular about what they

can and can't do. One of the problems is that they wanted to have students come in with their own strategies and that is difficult because we want to protect our kids' learning time. Kristin - Getting together to see what strategies are being used and how to work together to use strategies that work overall.

IV. News from the districts -

IV. Open Discussion