



Human EdgeTM

A FLAGSHIP INITIATIVE OF STRATEGIC GROWTH AND INNOVATION, LLC (SG+I)

A Collaborative Model for Responsible AI and Innovation

Including the Human Impact Studio – an applied, interdisciplinary innovation experience for the AI era

The future of artificial intelligence requires the human judgment cultivated through the liberal arts.

As AI reshapes industries and institutions, leaders must combine technical capability with critical thinking, ethical reasoning, and interdisciplinary collaboration. Human Edge brings these perspectives together through experiential programs, partnerships, and applied learning environments.

Empowering leaders, educators, students, and professionals to shape a future where innovation and ethics advance together.

January 2026

Why It Matters

AI is transforming every industry. Its full potential depends on people who unite technical capability with ethical judgment.

The challenge is urgent:

- 39% of workers' core skills will change by 2030 (World Economic Forum (WEF))
- 63% of employers cite skill gaps as their biggest barrier to transformation (WEF)
- Few models integrate ethics with real-world application

Human Edge brings students, professionals, & leaders together to build trusted, real-world AI capability, developing the judgment and practical experience needed to apply AI responsibly.

In Partnership With:



Holy Cross



What Makes Human Edge Different

Human Edge is designed differently – not as a course, program, or one-time event, but as a collaboration model built for real-world complexity.

1. **Real-world application from day one**

Participants work on live civic, organizational, and workforce challenges using real data and industry-grade tools.

2. **Ethics embedded, not added later**

Human-centered and ethical perspectives are integrated at the start – shaping decisions, design choices, and outcomes.

3. **Interdisciplinary by design**

Teams bring together students and professionals from liberal arts, engineering, business, and applied fields – compliance, risk, communications, data science, development – to collaborate the way real organizations do.

4. **Regionally grounded, globally adaptable**

Local partnerships serve as testbeds for models that can be replicated across sectors and regions.

Value Across the Ecosystem

Human Edge creates shared value by aligning education, workforce readiness, and responsible innovation.

Academic Institutions	Students & Professionals
Prepare students and professionals for interdisciplinary collaboration and evolving workforce demands through applied, real-world experience.	Build judgment, ethical fluency, and collaborative capability – and earn a credential that signals readiness for real-world innovation.
Companies	Government & Civic Leaders
Access adaptable, responsible talent and shape innovation early through mentorship and applied collaboration.	Demonstrate responsible AI in practice while strengthening regional leadership and public trust.

Across ecosystems, Human Edge aligns ethics, technical capability, and organizational context – making innovation more trusted, adoptable, and inclusive.

Human Edge in Action

Human Edge has been implemented through live, multi-institutional collaborations that bring together students, faculty, industry mentors, and civic leaders in shared, applied environments.

Human Impact Studio (Hack for Human Impact) | November 2025



The inaugural Hack for Human Impact convened participants from across New England for an interdisciplinary innovation sprint addressing real civic challenges using Massachusetts Data Commons datasets and enterprise-grade tools.

- **6 academic institutions across New England**, including Worcester Polytechnic Institute, College of the Holy Cross, Clark University, Wellesley College, Bryant University, and Amherst College
- **100 students** formed interdisciplinary teams across institutions
- **Enterprise tools:** Snowflake, Tableau
- **4 winning teams;** all teams presented solutions to civic challenges
- **Leadership participation:** Senator Michael O. Moore, Secretary Jason Snyder (Commonwealth CIO), City Manager Eric Batista, Director Sabrina Mansur (MA AI Hub)

Participant Outcome: 94% of respondents agreed the experience helped them see that innovation is not just about technology, but about people.

What Partners Are Saying

"We're helping demonstrate what responsible AI looks like in action: collaboration that reflects our state's values." – Jason Snyder, Secretary of Technology Services and Security, Commonwealth of Massachusetts

"When you combine that breadth of perspective with the technical problem-solving of engineering, you empower students to use technology in ways that are not only powerful but purposeful, and most importantly, responsible." – Daniel Klinghard, Dean of Education and Academic Experience, College of the Holy Cross

"Events like this showcase what is possible when education, government, and industry come together to drive innovation with purpose and integrity." – Eric Batista, City Manager, City of Worcester

Looking Ahead

Building on the success of Hack for Human Impact and growing cross-sector interest, Human Edge is expanding:

Completed Milestones:

- **November 2025:** Inaugural Hack for Human Impact – 100 students, 6 institutions across New England
- **January 2026:** Convened AI Ethics Roundtable at Massachusetts State House with leaders from government, higher education, civil liberties, and science policy

2026–2027 Milestones:

1. **April 2026:** Bentley & Future Talent Council Global AI Summit -*AI literacy for the future of work: what students actually need, and who decides*
2. **October 2026:** Human Edge: The Human Impact Studio – Expanded Regional Experience at the DCU Center (200+ participants)
3. **Q1 2027:** Public-facing event at the Museum of Science, Boston
4. **Ongoing:** Cross-sector roundtables on AI ethics, governance, and workforce readiness
5. **In development:** Extension to professionals and high school students, with international interest from Europe

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Ready to engage?

- **Sponsor** the October 2026 event
- **Partner** as an academic institution or industry collaborator
- **Join** a working committee shaping the future of Human Edge

Schedule a conversation: sconway@strategicgrowthandinnovation.com | 978-430-1800

Human Edge is sustained through sponsorship, institutional partnerships, and program fees.

About Strategic Growth and Innovation, LLC (SG+I)

SG+I is a Massachusetts-based consultancy helping organizations and communities navigate digital transformation and responsible AI adoption. Founded by Shauna M. Conway, a former CIO and CISO, SG+I partners with business, academic, and government leaders to design systems that create growth while safeguarding trust.

www.strategicgrowthandinnovation.com