Human Edge™

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

Industry Partner Brief · 2026

# Responsible AI, Applied. The Partnership Model for Workforce Readiness at Scale.

A new divide is emerging in the global workforce. AI is not eliminating the need for human judgment — it is accelerating demand for it. According to PwC's 2026 Global AI Jobs Barometer, entry-level roles most exposed to AI are now seven times more likely to require senior-level human skills like leadership, creativity, and judgment. Job openings for these roles have grown 35% since 2019. Other entry-level roles have shrunk by 10%.[1]

At the same time, AI is removing the routine work that historically served as the apprenticeship — the on-ramp through which people developed judgment, collaboration, and decision-making capability before taking on real responsibility.

The skills companies need most are the hardest to develop without structured practice. That gap does not close through technology access alone. It closes through environments where people work across disciplines, under real conditions, on real problems — alongside practitioners who bring different expertise to the same challenge. Human Edge builds those environments.

> *Human Edge brings together universities, industry, and public-sector partners to explore applied, human-centered AI through interdisciplinary collaboration — at a time when the human readiness conversation is moving from aspiration to action.*

## Opportunity

Participation in Human Edge is not event sponsorship. It is structured, year-round engagement in a working AI learning ecosystem — with access, relationships, and visibility that most organizations cannot create on their own.

The 2026–2027 Human Edge Partnership Year runs September 2026 through June 2027. It includes up to four Studios and five Roundtables across the region — connecting students, faculty, industry leaders, and policymakers in a single trusted ecosystem. Annual partners have year-round presence, modular engagement, and access to touchpoints no single event can provide.

## What Corporate Partners Actually Get

Six distinct value points. Each addresses a different internal buyer and a different organizational need.

### 1. The Talent You're Actually Looking For

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Human Edge participants are not a single discipline. They span computer science, data science, political science, social work, economics, law, business, and the humanities — the interdisciplinary profile most organizations say they struggle to find. Mentors and judges meet this cohort directly, in a working environment, before they enter the job market. Not a career fair. Not a campus recruiting visit. Hours of substantive engagement with students solving real AI challenges under time pressure.

*Relevant to: Talent Acquisition, Workforce Development, University Relations*

### 2. Workforce Readiness as Organizational Risk Management

AI adoption without workforce readiness creates organizational risk. PwC's 2026 data shows that the companies seeing the greatest returns on AI are those amplifying human expertise — not just automating tasks. The judgment gaps, governance failures, and ethical blind spots that undermine AI adoption don't close through technology access alone. They close through practice. Engaging as a Human Edge partner means investing in the regional workforce your organization will hire from — and being present as that workforce develops the capability you actually need.

*Relevant to: CPO, CHRO, Head of Learning & Development*

### 3. Real Insight on How Future Talent Applies AI

Mentors and judges in a Human Edge Studio are not ceremonial. They engage with real teams working on real challenges, observe how people with varying technical backgrounds interpret AI outputs, navigate explainability, and make governance decisions under pressure. That is applied insight into how your tools, your frameworks, and your organizational assumptions actually translate — or don't — when people outside your walls encounter them.

*Relevant to: Product, Strategy, AI/Data leadership*

### 4. Brand in a Trusted, Ethics-Grounded Environment

The Human Edge brand carries a specific signal: responsible AI, ethics-grounded, not hype-driven. Your organization's name in this environment reaches corporate and institutional decision-makers, faculty, civic leaders, and state-level policy stakeholders — people who make AI adoption decisions and rarely attend industry conferences. Year-round recognition across Studios, Roundtables, and all Human Edge communications means your presence is consistent, not episodic.

*Relevant to: Marketing, Communications, Corporate Responsibility*

### 5. Cross-Sector Dialogue That Matters

Human Edge Roundtables convene leaders across higher education, industry, government, workforce development, and public policy. Sessions are intentionally designed to support substantive dialogue around responsible AI implementation, workforce transformation, trust and governance, regional economic opportunity, and education and talent development. Human Edge has already convened dialogue at the Massachusetts State House and through regional innovation ecosystems. These are working conversations focused on practical questions, not performative panels. They are substantive exchanges with the people shaping regional AI policy, research and practice. Reserved roundtable seats are available at the Innovation Partner tier and above.

*Relevant to: VP External Affairs, Government Relations, Corporate Responsibility*

### 6. A Strategic Relationship, Not a Transaction

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Cornerstone and Innovation Partners receive more than visibility. They receive a working relationship with SG+I — early access to the programming calendar, post-event partner briefings, and for Cornerstone Partners, an annual strategic session with Shauna Conway. As Human Edge scales from a regional model to a national platform, partners who are in now are positioned as architects of that work, not late arrivals to it.

*Relevant to: C-suite, VP Strategic Partnerships, External Affairs*

## Human Edge in Action

Human Edge has already demonstrated a working model for interdisciplinary, applied AI learning and cross-sector collaboration.

### November 2025 | Hack for Human Impact

100 students across six institutions collaborated on real civic challenges using Massachusetts datasets related to water quality, sustainability, and community investment.

Hosted through Worcester Polytechnic Institute and the College of the Holy Cross, students worked in interdisciplinary teams alongside faculty, civic leaders, and industry practitioners.

Outcomes included:

| 78% | 94% | 4× | 86% |
|---|---|---|---|
| higher confidence with AI tools | innovation is about people, not just technology | shifted to viewing AI as a civic problem-solving tool | wanted to stay informed about future Studios |

### January 2026 | AI Ethics Roundtable — Massachusetts State House

Convened with Senator Michael O. Moore, Human Edge brought together leaders from higher education, government, civil liberties, industry, and technology to explore practical questions around trust, ethics, and responsible AI. The convening demonstrated Human Edge's ability to create meaningful dialogue across sectors on issues that increasingly matter to organizations and communities.

### May 2026 | Human Edge Studio: Predictive AI in High-Stakes Decisions

Participants across ten institutions evaluated predictive AI in a consequential context involving fairness, explainability, governance, and deployment readiness.

Rather than focusing solely on technical performance, teams explored broader questions:

- Should the model be deployed?
- What risks remain?
- What role should human judgment play?

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Outcomes included:

| 90% | 80% | 80% | 3 |
|---|---|---|---|
| higher confidence after the Studio | human judgment required — not just technical skill | team collaboration was the top learning driver | institutions returned for a second Studio |

### May 2026 | Cross-Sector Responsible AI in Practice Roundtable — Boston Tech Week

In partnership with the Massachusetts AI Hub and Morrison Foerster, Human Edge convened a cross-sector dialogue exploring how organizations are navigating responsible AI implementation in practice.

Participants included leaders across technology, cybersecurity, law, workforce development, higher education, consulting, and public policy — alongside representatives from institutions including MIT, Harvard, civil liberties organizations, and regional industry.

The conversation focused on practical questions organizations increasingly face:

- How do organizations balance innovation with trust?
- What governance structures are needed as AI adoption accelerates?
- How do organizations prepare people — not just systems — for AI-enabled work?
- What role should ethics, transparency, and accountability play in implementation?

The roundtable reinforced Human Edge's role as a trusted convener across industry, education, and government — creating practical dialogue around how AI can scale responsibly in real-world environments.

Human Edge is not a prototype.

It is a demonstrated model, growing intentionally.

## The 2026 – 2027 Human Edge Ecosystem

The entry point may be October 2026.

The relationship is the year.

Human Edge is building a year-round ecosystem of Studios and Roundtables connecting universities, industry, government, and civic organizations.

The 2026–2027 programming year includes:

**Fall 2026**

- Massachusetts AI Week Roundtable
- Massachusetts State House Roundtable
- Human Edge: The Human Impact Studio (October 24, Worcester, MA)

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**Winter / Spring 2027**

- Museum of Science Studio (Boston)
- Additional cross-sector Roundtables
- AIxEd collaboration opportunities
- Regional workforce and governance dialogue

Partners participate in a growing ecosystem focused on responsible AI capability and human-centered workforce development.

## Annual Partnership Tiers

Partners commit for the 2026–2027 year and engage across Studios, Roundtables, and the full Human Edge ecosystem.

### Cornerstone Partner

**$25,000 / year**

*Strategic Leadership*

**Primary buyer:**
CPO, VP External Affairs, Head of Corporate Responsibility, VP Strategic Partnerships

- Presenting designation at one Studio of your choosing — on-stage presence and opening remarks
- Reserved seats at every Roundtable across the year
- Four executive mentor and judge seats distributed across Studios
- Featured section in the Human Edge Annual Impact Report — distributed to institutional, civic, and industry stakeholders
- Annual working session with Shauna Conway — early access to the 2027–2028 calendar and first right of renewal
- Year-round recognition across all Human Edge communications

*Your organization present where regional AI workforce strategy and governance is being shaped — as a named partner, not a logo on a slide.*

### Innovation Partner

**$15,000 / year**

*Engagement Leadership*

**Primary buyer:**
Head of University Relations, Talent Acquisition leader, Corporate Responsibility or Workforce Development

- Mentor and judge seats at two Studios, at different institutions across the year
- Two reserved Roundtable seats — your choice of which convenings
- Year-round recognition across all Human Edge communications
- Inclusion in the Human Edge Annual Impact Report
- Invitation to all post-event partner briefings

*Multi-institution reach, curated policy access, and year-round brand presence in a trusted ecosystem.*

### Studio Partner

**$7,500 / year**

*Ecosystem Engagement*

**Primary buyer:**

- Priority Studio selection — choose which Studio before general outreach
- One mentor or observer seat at your chosen Studio
- Year-round logo and organizational recognition
- Inclusion in the Annual Impact Report

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|---|---|
| Marketing manager, University Relations coordinator, regional employer workforce lead | *A substantive entry point. Real engagement, real recognition, real story to tell.* |

> **A Note on Technology Partners**
> Technology companies may engage through the annual tier structure, through platform or tool contribution (credits, sandbox environments, compute resources), or through a combination of both. If your organization's primary contribution is technology access rather than financial sponsorship, the Human Edge Technology Partner Brief outlines a distinct engagement pathway. Contact us to discuss the right structure for your organization.

## Let's Explore Partnership

Human Edge welcomes conversations with organizations interested in helping shape responsible AI capability, workforce readiness, and interdisciplinary learning in real-world environments.

Organizations engaging today are helping define what thoughtful, human-centered AI readiness looks like in practice.

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[1] PwC 2026 Global AI Jobs Barometer, June 2026. Analysis of more than one billion job advertisements across 27 countries and territories. pwc.com/gx/en/news-room/press-releases/2026/pwc-2026-ai-jobs-barometer.html

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