PROSPECTUS · 2026

Helping People Learn to Apply AI Responsibly in Real-World Environments

Artificial intelligence is reshaping how people learn, work, and make decisions across every sector of society. Yet while technological capability continues to advance rapidly, many organizations are navigating a shared challenge: how to ensure people develop the judgment, ethical reasoning, communication skills, and interdisciplinary perspective needed to apply AI responsibly in real-world environments.

Across higher education, industry, and government, leaders are increasingly recognizing that technical fluency alone is not enough. Preparing people for an AI-shaped world requires opportunities to practice thoughtful decision-making, navigate ambiguity, collaborate across disciplines, and understand the broader human implications of technology.

Human Edge is a human-centered AI collaboration model that brings together universities, industry, and public-sector partners to develop judgment, ethical reasoning, and applied capability through interdisciplinary, real-world experiences. Through Human Edge Studios, Roundtables, and applied collaborations, participants explore how artificial intelligence can be used thoughtfully and responsibly in contexts that reflect the complexity of the real world.

Intentionally interdisciplinary, practical, and human-centered, Human Edge connects liberal arts, technical disciplines, professional fields, and civic perspectives through meaningful collaboration — helping prepare people to apply AI responsibly at a time when the technology is advancing faster than our ability to use it wisely.

Why Human Edge Matters

As artificial intelligence becomes more integrated into everyday work and decision-making, expectations for what people need to succeed are changing. Organizations increasingly need people who can communicate, work across disciplines, evaluate tradeoffs, and apply emerging technologies responsibly in real-world contexts — capabilities best developed through practice, not theory alone.

Human Edge helps meet that need by creating applied, interdisciplinary experiences built on four connected pillars.

Applied learning

Real-world challenges involving workforce, civic, organizational, and societal issues — authentic datasets and practical scenarios that require analysis, collaboration, and decision-making in context.

Human-centered design

Ethics, trust, governance, fairness, and human impact integrated throughout — responsible AI as an essential component of how technology is evaluated and applied, not a separate topic.

Interdisciplinary collaboration

Students, professionals, faculty, practitioners, and civic leaders working together — reflecting the increasingly collaborative nature of real-world problem solving.

A cross-sector ecosystem

Universities, industry partners, public-sector organizations, workforce leaders, and community stakeholders in a shared learning environment — creating dialogue across sectors that don't often work together in structured ways.

Together, these pillars strengthen communication, adaptability, collaboration, and judgment that AI alone cannot supply — the human edge that determines whether technology is applied well.

Human Edge in Action

Human Edge has already demonstrated a repeatable model for interdisciplinary, applied AI learning and cross-sector collaboration — beginning with a founding proof-of-concept and growing into a recurring calendar of Studios and Roundtables.

November 2025 | Hack for Human Impact — The Founding Proof-of-Concept

Hosted with Worcester Polytechnic Institute and the College of the Holy Cross, this founding proof-of-concept brought together 100 students across six institutions to explore civic challenges using Massachusetts datasets. The experience validated the interdisciplinary, applied model that Human Edge was later built to formalize and scale.

Participants worked in interdisciplinary teams addressing questions involving environmental sustainability, water quality, and community impact.

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, technology, and workforce development to explore practical questions around trust, ethics, and responsible AI implementation.

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

Hosted at Northeastern University in collaboration with AIxEd and Elai, participants across ten institutions explored how predictive AI should be evaluated in consequential decision-making environments.

Teams examined questions involving fairness, explainability, governance, deployment readiness, human oversight, and operational and reputational risk.

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 | Responsible AI in Practice Roundtable — Boston Tech Week

In collaboration with the Massachusetts AI Hub and Morrison Foerster, Human Edge convened leaders from industry, higher education, law, workforce development, and public policy to explore responsible AI implementation in practice.

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The conversation highlighted the growing need for collaboration across sectors as organizations navigate trust, governance, workforce readiness, and AI adoption.

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**

The Human Edge Ecosystem

Human Edge connects universities, industry, government, and civic leaders through two formats: Studios, where participants earn a shared credential through applied work, and Roundtables, where leaders carry that work forward through ongoing dialogue.

Academic	Industry	Government & Civic
Students and faculty gaining applied, interdisciplinary experience	Mentors and employers shaping workforce-ready talent	Policymakers grounding the work in regional priorities

All three meet in Human Edge — through Studios and Roundtables alike.

Looking Ahead: Fall 2026 Programming

Human Edge continues to expand opportunities for universities, industry, government, and civic organizations to explore the responsible application of AI through interdisciplinary collaboration and real-world engagement. The 2026 H2 calendar includes:

- **Aug 27, 2026 —** *Roundtable —* Governing Advanced AI: Transparency, Safety & Public Trust (with Anthropic, Morrison Foerster)
- **Sep 29, 2026 —** *Roundtable —* AI and Education (United Way, WPI)
- **Oct 1, 2026 —** *Roundtable —* Responsible AI: Continuing the Conversation (Morrison Foerster)
- **Oct 24, 2026 —** *Studio ★ —* Work, Identity & Opportunity in the Age of AI (WPI, credentialed)
- **Nov 12, 2026 —** *Roundtable —* WiDS: Navigating Careers in the Age of AI (WPI)
- **Nov 17, 2026 —** *Roundtable —* State House — Work, Identity & Opportunity (winning Studio team presents findings)

October 24, 2026 | Human Edge Studio — Worcester, Massachusetts

The next Human Edge Studio will bring together students, educators, practitioners, employers, and civic leaders to explore how AI is reshaping work, opportunity, and human experience.

Areas of Ongoing Focus

- Responsible AI capability
- Workforce readiness
- Interdisciplinary collaboration
- Civic problem-solving
- Future talent development
- Professional learning

We believe the future of AI will be shaped not only by technology, but by the people prepared to use it responsibly.

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Ways to Engage

Whether you are an academic institution, employer, technology organization, policymaker, or community leader, there are many ways to contribute to and benefit from the Human Edge ecosystem.

- Academic institutions: bring students and faculty into a Studio or join as a partner for the 2026–2027 year.
- Employers and industry partners: shape challenge design, mentor teams, and gain early visibility into emerging talent.
- Mentors and judges: contribute practitioner judgment to a Studio challenge without a long-term commitment.
- Policymakers and civic leaders help frame real-world challenges and convene a Roundtable in your region.

Human Edge welcomes partners who share a commitment to developing the judgment, ethical reasoning, and applied capabilities needed to navigate an AI-shaped world responsibly.

To discuss joining the October 2026 Studio or the 2026–2027 partnership year, contact:

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About Strategic Growth & Innovation (SG+I)

Strategic Growth & Innovation, LLC (SG+I) is a Massachusetts-based advisory firm focused on innovation, responsible AI adoption, workforce transformation, and cross-sector collaboration.

Founded by Shauna Conway, former CIO and CISO, SG+I brings together leaders across education, industry, and government to help build trusted, human-centered approaches to innovation.

Human Edge™ is a flagship initiative of SG+I.

Human Edge™ is a flagship initiative of Strategic Growth & Innovation, LLC. The Human Edge model, Studio framework, and supporting materials are developed and stewarded by SG+I.

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