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Federation On Fire

NENA CHRIE Federation on Fire!

🔥 From Classroom to Market: Decoding AI in Teaching, Research, and Industry 🔥

Ignited by:

Dr. Erin O'Hanlon, Stockton University
Dr. Ajay Aluri, West Virginia University
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Dr. Forest Ma, University of Southern Maine
Dr. Maria Matthews, Mount Saint Vincent University

Atlantic City, NJ – At the recent **NENA Conference 2025**, hosted by **Stockton University** in the vibrant city of Atlantic City, artificial intelligence was at the forefront of innovation in hospitality and tourism education. A standout highlight of the conference was the **AI Instructional Technique Workshop**, collaboratively led by panelists from multiple universities who came together to explore the transformative role of AI in the classroom.

The session began with brief introductions from the four panelists, each presenting their unique AI instructional topic before participants dispersed into an engaging roundtable discussion. Spread throughout the conference room, each roundtable offered a dynamic and interactive discussion led by a panel expert on the following topics:

- **The Buzz About AI: Revolutionizing Strategic Communication in Hospitality Education.**

Ignited by Dr. Erin O'Hanlon, Stockton University

- **Integrating Automation and Artificial Intelligence Insights in Hospitality & Tourism Courses.**

Ignited by Dr. Ajay Aluri, West Virginia University, and Dr. Eric Brown, Iowa State University

- **The Big Idea Competition Driven by AI.** *Ignited by Christine Cleaver, Temple University and Dr. Forest Ma, University of Southern Maine*

- **Teaching in the AI Era: Ethical Insights for Hospitality & Tourism Educators.** *Ignited by Dr. Maria Matthews, Mount Saint Vincent University*



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Participants had the opportunity to dive deep into these relevant and timely topics, sharing perspectives, raising questions, and exchanging ideas on how AI is reshaping the future of teaching and learning in hospitality and tourism. The energy in the room was palpable, with attendees actively engaging in meaningful discussions at each table.

Following the roundtable conversations, representatives from each group presented a summary of their key takeaways, offering insight into emerging trends, challenges, and opportunities associated with AI integration in education.

The AI Instructional Workshop was not only a testament to the collaborative spirit of the NENA community but also a forward-thinking initiative that set the tone for innovation and ethical reflection in the AI era of hospitality and tourism education.



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