



ST. JOHN'S
UNIVERSITY

THE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

THE LILLY NETWORK OF CHURCH-RELATED COLLEGES
AND UNIVERSITIES

in partnership with

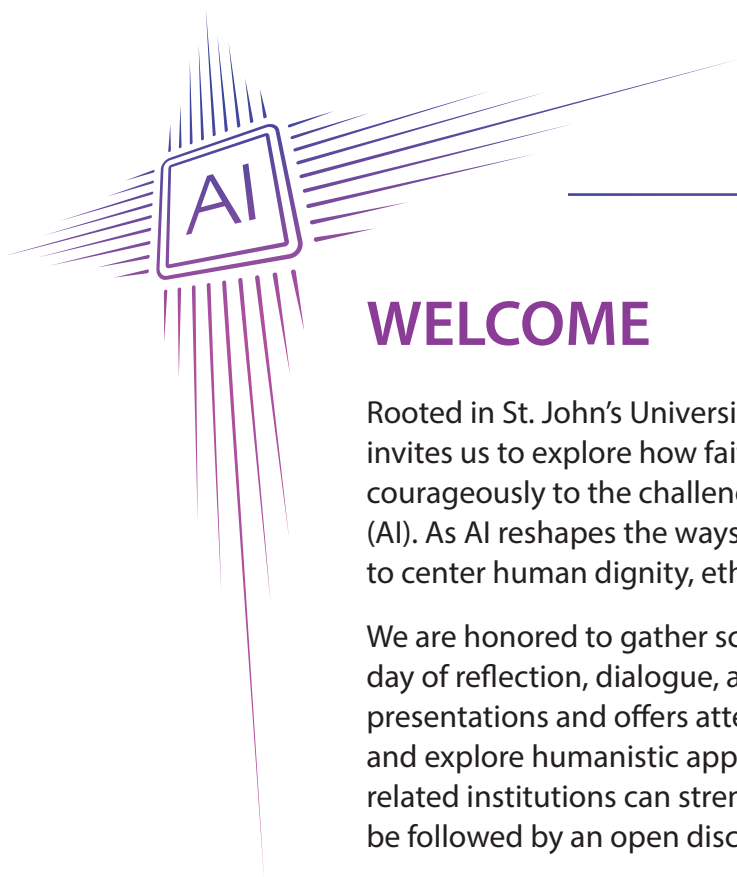
THE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

Presents

**“The Roles and Missions of
Church-Related Institutions in the Era of AI:
Humanistic Approaches”**

**Saturday, October 24
8:30 a.m.–4 p.m.**

**St. John's University
D'Angelo Center Ballroom
Queens, NY 11439**



WELCOME

Rooted in St. John's University's Catholic and Vincentian tradition, today's conference invites us to explore how faith-based institutions can respond thoughtfully and courageously to the challenges and opportunities presented by artificial intelligence (AI). As AI reshapes the ways we teach, communicate, and serve, our mission calls us to center human dignity, ethical responsibility, and compassionate leadership.

We are honored to gather scholars, educators, and mission-driven leaders for a day of reflection, dialogue, and shared learning. This event includes two keynote presentations and offers attendees the opportunity to learn about AI and humanity, and explore humanistic approaches to AI-related issues. We will discuss how church-related institutions can strengthen their missions and roles in the era of AI. This will be followed by an open discussion and an optional campus mission tour.

Your presence enriches this community, and we look forward to the insights and connections that will emerge throughout the day.

Learning Objectives

- **Humanistic AI Foundations**—Explore how humanistic values can guide ethical- and mission-aligned responses to artificial intelligence.
- **Mission-Centered Leadership**—Examine how church-related institutions can strengthen their roles and identities in an AI-driven era.
- **AI Literacy and Inclusion**—Build foundational understanding of AI; its biases; and its implications for culture, accessibility, and minoritized communities.
- **Dialogue and Reflection**—Engage in meaningful conversations that connect technology, humanity, ethics, and faith-based mission.
- **Applied Insight**—Translate conference learning into actionable strategies for teaching, leadership, and institutional development.

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

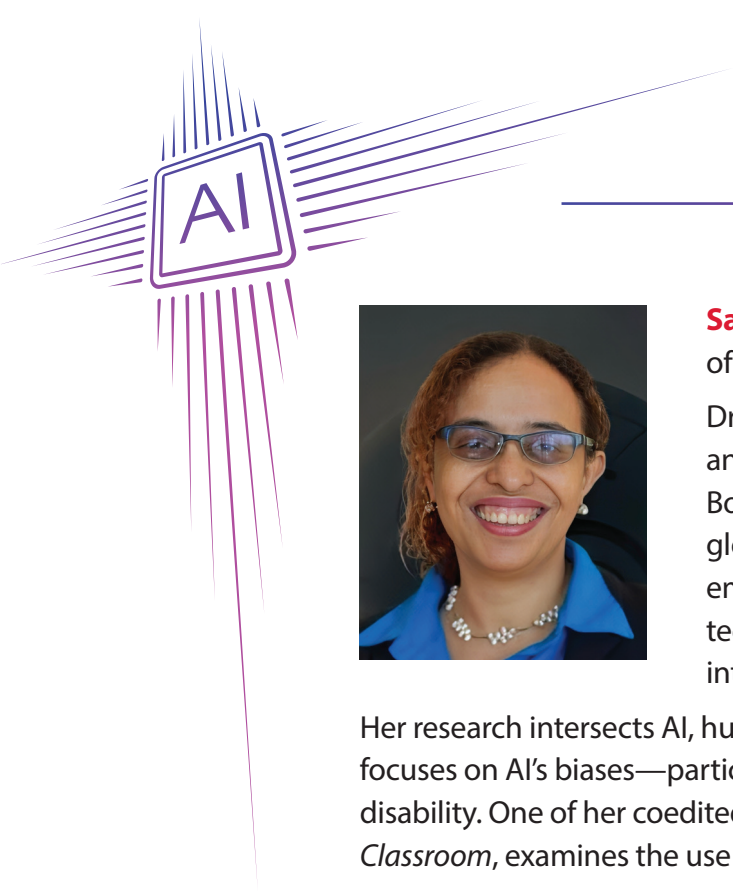


Michael Edmondson, Ph.D., is Associate Provost for Continued Learning and Founding Director of the Learning and Development Initiative (LDI) at the New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT). As NJIT's hub for professional education and workforce development, LDI advances digital opportunity, AI literacy, and workforce capability through FutureWork™, a proprietary learning and development ecosystem designed for the age of artificial intelligence.

Under his leadership, LDI delivers noncredit education and customized workforce solutions through partnerships with businesses, educational institutions, government agencies, and community organizations. Its work focuses on helping individuals and organizations develop the capabilities needed to navigate technological change and the future of work.

A regular keynote speaker, Dr. Edmondson has delivered more than 100 presentations throughout his career on topics spanning artificial intelligence, leadership, higher education, workforce transformation, and organizational change. He earned a B.A. in History from Cabrini College, an M.A. in History from Villanova University, and a Ph.D. in History from Temple University.

Dr. Edmondson is also a *Forbes* contributor and has published a series of articles in *University World News* exploring AI and the future of higher education. He serves as coeditor of the *Human Resource Management and Organizational Behavior Collection* for Business Expert Press and has authored 10 books, including his latest, *Remaining Human in the Age of AI*, published in 2026.



AI



Sanae Elmoudden, Ph.D., is a professor in the Department of Communication Studies at St. John's University.

Dr. Elmoudden earned her B.A. from Rutgers University, and her M.A. and Ph.D. from the University of Colorado, Boulder. She studies the intersections between globalization, technology, and communication; her emphasis is on the implications of communication technologies on organizational communication and interpersonal communication.

Her research intersects AI, humanity, education, and communication. Her writing focuses on AI's biases—particularly in relation to culture, minoritized religion, and disability. One of her coedited books, *The Role of Generative AI in the Communication Classroom*, examines the use of generative AI in the classroom.

Dr. Elmoudden has presented at national and international conferences, and published in numerous journals. She and coauthor Jason S. Wrench, Ed.D., a professor in the Department of Communication at SUNY New Paltz, recently published *The Future is Now: Empowering Society Through AI Literacy*. This textbook presents a clear, accessible roadmap for understanding how artificial intelligence is shaping today's world and how humans can actively engage. It demystifies core AI concepts—such as machine learning and large language models—making them accessible to students across disciplines while explaining how AI actually works. Distinctively human-centered, it emphasizes that true AI literacy necessitates ethical awareness, critical thinking, and societal insight, in addition to technical knowledge. Through practical examples and forward-looking discussions, the book prepares readers to navigate the impact of AI on daily life, the workforce, and the future of human-machine collaboration.

Dr. Elmoudden and Dr. Wrench appeared in the "AI with Dr. Craig Hansen" YouTube video. Dr. Elmoudden discussed generative AI and mental health and Dr. Wrench discussed AI in general.

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

9:30–10 a.m.	Welcome and Light Refreshments • Check-in • Coffee, tea, and light refreshments are provided.
10–10:30 a.m.	Brief Overview of the Day and Introduction Aliya E. Holmes, Ph.D. Associate Dean for Innovation and Partnerships Rev. Patrick J. Griffin, C.M. '13HON Executive Director, Vincentian Center for Church and Society
10:30 a.m.–Noon	Keynote 1 Michael Edmondson, Ph.D. <i>"Remaining Human in the Age of AI: Eight Human Traits for Thriving in an AI-Driven World"</i> As artificial intelligence makes work faster and easier, leaders face a more consequential question: When should AI remove friction, and when should friction remain because it develops essential human capabilities? This keynote explores the friction paradox, examining how productive struggle can strengthen judgment, learning, creativity, resilience, and human connection even as AI eliminates unnecessary barriers. Through this lens, Dr. Edmondson examines eight human qualities increasingly valuable in an AI-driven world: serendipity, openness, agility, resilience, ambition, self-care, equanimity, and empathy. The goal involves more than preserving these qualities. Leaders must determine when AI should remove friction for efficiency, preserve friction for human development, and redesign work so AI augments rather than substitutes for human capability. The future of AI will be shaped by both what machines can do and how intentionally humans choose to use them. The session challenges audiences to consider a fundamental question: As AI becomes more capable, where should we preserve the friction that helps us remain distinctly human?
Noon–1 p.m.	Lunch Various lunch options are available, including ham and cheese, tuna, chicken, vegetable sandwiches, and gluten-free options.



CONFERENCE SCHEDULE (continued)

1–2:30 p.m.	Keynote 2 Sanae Elmoudden, Ph.D. <i>“Keeping Humanity at the Center: Four Strategies for Higher Education in the Age of AI”</i> As we move through the generative and agentic stages of the AI pyramid, we are already witnessing how two of the qualities that make us fundamentally human, language and communication, are being transformed by our interaction with AI. As humans increasingly delegate our everyday communication to AI, asking it to write, mediate our relationships, and, in some instances, speak for us, we risk changing not only how we communicate, but also how we tell our own stories and express our own humanity. How can we, as a church-related institution, center humanity at the heart of our mission in the age of AI? This keynote invites the audience to prioritize embodied human presence, practice AI literacy alongside digital fasting, safeguard human dignity, and especially protect the art of human storytelling to uphold the core values of mission such as truth and transparency, love and respect, and service and practice. Ultimately, as the AI pyramid is being built, we need to ensure that democratic human centrality is not lost in the frenzy of AI.
2:40–3:40 p.m.	Q&A Session and Open Discussion Submit your questions online or by raising your hand.
3:40–4 p.m.	Closing Remarks Please fill out the survey.
4–5 p.m.	Campus Mission Tour (Optional) We will explore St. John’s Queens, NY, campus and St. Thomas More Church, while learning more about the University’s mission.

SPECIAL THANKS

We gratefully acknowledge

- **The Lilly Network of Church-Related Colleges and Universities** for their partnership and commitment to mission-centered scholarship.
- **The School of Education at St. John's University**, whose leadership and hospitality make this convening possible.
- **Dr. Michael Edmondson and Dr. Sanae Elmoudden**, whose scholarship and thought leadership guide today's conversations.
- **our Campus Ministry, Mission, and Student Affairs partners**, who support the integration of mission across academic and cocurricular spaces.
- **all attendees**, whose dedication to ethical, humanistic education strengthens our collective work.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS



ST. JOHN'S
UNIVERSITY

THE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION



THE LILLY
NETWORK

OF CHURCH-RELATED
COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES

Conference Evaluation Survey



SCAN QR CODE
FOR EVALUATION FORM

The School of Education extends its sincere gratitude to Eunhye Choi, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Education Specialties; Rosemary Costabile, Executive Assistant; Brittany Dotson-Lazar, Ed.D., Director of Budget Planning and Assessment; Aliya E. Holmes, Ph.D., Associate Dean for Innovation and Partnerships; Lisa Ninnivaggio, Budget and Planning Coordinator; Lucy A. Pesce, Ph.D., Assistant Vice President for Mission Integration; and Stephanie A. Shaw, Ed.D., Director for Communication, Events and Graduate Recruitment.