

Next Leaders Academy:

Ethical AI Camp 2024 Recap

In June 2024, the Gaskins Foundation hosted a pilot camp title "Next Leaders Academy: Ethical AI Camp" for high school students in the Greater Cincinnati area.



Camp Overview

June 8-12, 2024

Location: University of Cincinnati Digital Futures Building

Target Age: 9-12 grades

Focus: Exploring ethical considerations in the development and application of AI



The Digital Futures is part of the University of the Cincinnati. Housed within the Cincinnati Innovation District, the building houses research labs, co-working spaces, meeting rooms, and other amenities to foster creativity and growth in the field of digital technology. It serves as a hub for networking, education, and research in the digital technology sector.

We chose the Digital Futures building because it gives the camp hosts access to various labs focused on new technologies: ar/VR, AI, future mobility and more!



THE GASKINS FOUNDATION

About the Gaskins Foundation

The Gaskins Foundation is a non-profit organization dedicated to increasing STEM Workforce Development opportunities for learners of all ages.

Mission

Our mission is to present, engage, and prepare students of all ages to become leaders in STEM using algebra, programming, and design concepts.

Vision

To create a future where Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) is used for positive impact, promoting social good and ethical considerations in all technological advancements.

Values

Our expertise provides us with the flexibility to provide the highest level of service to students, teachers and administrators. TGF develops solutions to increase the number of students who are prepared to enter into and matriculate through collegiate STEM programs.

Gaskins Foundation is housed at DIGITAL FUTURES SINCE 2023. Founded in 2009, the foundation has served over 10,000 in the Cincinnati area and beyond. The foundation strives to increase the number of underrepresented students entering into and matriculating through STEM fields. In addition to K-12 outreach, the organization offers workforce development opportunities, primarily in STEM for adults as well.



Objectives of the Camp

The Ethical AI Camp aimed to introduce high school students to the fundamentals of AI, explore its potential impact on society, and encourage critical thinking about ethical considerations in AI development.

1 AI Fundamentals

Provide a comprehensive overview of AI concepts, including machine learning, deep learning, and natural language processing.

2 Ethical Implications

Delve into the ethical considerations surrounding AI, such as bias, privacy, and the impact on employment.

3 Practical Applications

Expose students to real-world applications of AI in various fields, highlighting both opportunities and challenges.

4 Critical Thinking

Encourage students to engage in critical thinking and discussions about the responsible development and deployment of AI.

Our camp developed a custom curriculum to give the participants a learning experience that is often curated toward college students and early career professionals.

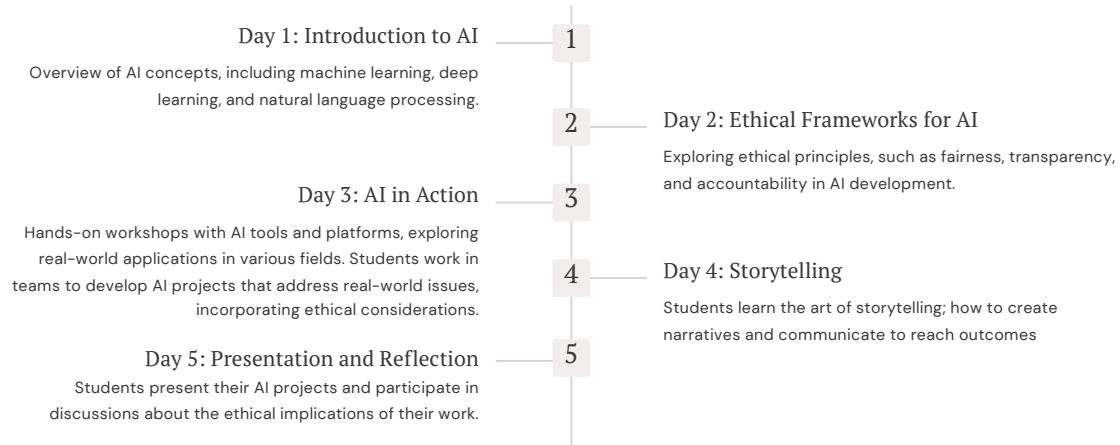
We partnered with highly regarded faculty (and their graduates students) to introduce the history of AI, how it has developed and some of the dangers of the increased reliance on technology

Faculty from our partner institution led workshops and discussions on understanding and forming ethical and moral positions.

The students worked in groups to develop projects and complete assignments throughout the week, with assistance of academic and industry leaders to reinforce their understanding of materials.

Curriculum and Activities

The camp offered a dynamic curriculum that combined lectures, hands-on workshops, and interactive activities to create an immersive learning experience.



The camp was designed to give a diverse group of students a strong foundation in several topics. The students participated in a workshop on ethics and how it can drive decisions and were given resources on how to form debate positions and how to tell an effective story. The program included a capstone project that was judged by local IT leaders.

Day 1 The group was provided an introduction to AI with respected educators leaders in the field

Day 2 The day focused on the creating ethical frameworks. The facilitator led a workshop on ethics and making decisions along ethical lines. The students also learned how to structure a debate

Day 3 – The students participated in a live AI demonstration. Hey learned about "hallucinations" and the importance of have clear inputs. They also had a discuss about how AI and other technologies have bene utilized in unethical ways.

Day 4 – The students worked with a professional videographer and producer

to learn about storytelling and using technology to share an effective story

Day 5 – The students presented their capstone projects to a panel of industry and academic leaders



THIS SLIDE CONTAINS FACILITATOR INFORMATION

We brought together a core group of local and international experts to drive our daily schedules. Our team members are considered leaders in engineering/STEM education, digital learning, along with video creations and storytelling.

Highlights and Key Takeaways

The camp provided valuable insights and opportunities for students to develop a deeper understanding of AI and its ethical implications.

Hands-On Learning

Students gained practical experience by working with AI tools and platforms, building AI-powered projects.

Ethical Discussions

Open and engaging discussions facilitated critical thinking about ethical considerations in AI development and deployment.

Teamwork and Collaboration

Students collaborated on AI projects, fostering teamwork and problem-solving skills in a real-world setting.

The students gained valuable experience into the concepts of ethics, how AI tells stories and how they can be more responsible in telling that story.

The learned the importance of ethics and how to develop ethical discussions and outlooks. They also worked in teams to develop to solve problems in developing their projects.

Impact and Feedback

The Ethical AI Camp had a significant impact on the students, fostering an understanding of AI and its potential for both good and harm.



Positive Feedback

Students overwhelmingly expressed positive feedback about the camp's content, activities, and learning environment.



Increased Awareness

The camp significantly increased student awareness of AI technology, its ethical considerations, and its potential impact on society.



Networking Opportunities

Students had the opportunity to network with other students, mentors, and industry professionals.

**Student
Testimonial
Video Will be
Added**

The feedback from the camp was overwhelmingly positive as the students and parents relished the opportunity to learn about topics driving their world and their community. The camp also brought awareness of how technology is shaping the world around the students.



Future Plans and Next Steps

The Gaskins Foundation plans to continue offering the Ethical AI Camp annually, building on the success of the 2024 program.

1

Expand Outreach

Reach out to a wider range of schools and organizations to make the camp accessible to a more diverse group of students.

2

Develop New Curriculum

Incorporate new topics and technologies in the curriculum, reflecting the rapidly evolving landscape of AI.

3

Strengthen Partnerships

Collaborate with other Digital Futures researchers industry partners to provide students with practical experience and mentorship opportunities.

The plans moving forward are to expand the camp to accommodate more students as well as to integrate more innovation research labs into the cultivation of the camp.

We are planning to host a more robust camp in partnership with additional innovation labs (AR/VR, machine learning, etc.) in subsequent years for a larger group of students.

We are in discussions to host the camp in with multiple partners

Questions?