

Rowan University

STEVE SWEENEY CENTER
FOR PUBLIC POLICY

RIC EDELMAN COLLEGE OF
COMMUNICATION, HUMANITIES AND
SOCIAL SCIENCE

Shaping the Future of Artificial Intelligence in New Jersey: Critical Choices, Policy Challenges, Strategic Opportunities

Chamberlain Student Center
Eynon Ballroom

November 10, 2026
Rowan University

Agenda

8:00 a.m. **Registration and Breakfast**

8:45 a.m. **Opening Introduction**

Vojislava "Voki" Pophristic, Ph.D., *Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs, Rowan University*

Welcome

Ali A. Houshmand, Ph.D., *President, Rowan University*
Steve Sweeney, *Chair, Steve Sweeney Center for Public Policy*

9:00 a.m. **Opening Keynote**

Ric Edelman, *Founding Head, School of Financial Planning, Rowan University, and Rowan University Distinguished Lecturer*

9:20 a.m. **Panel I: The Sherrill Administration's Goals for Artificial Intelligence**

Dave Cole, *New Jersey State Chief Innovation Officer*
Ram Akella, *Executive Vice President for Innovation Impact at the New Jersey Economic Development Authority*
Marie Pryor, Ph.D., *Director of Workforce, Microsoft's Tech Spark, NJ AI Hub*
Mark Magyar, *Director, Steve Sweeney Center for Public Policy* (moderator)

10:45 a.m. **Panel II: AI Has Made Its Move. How Will New Jersey's Workforce Respond?**

Senator John Burzichelli *(D-3rd District)*
Lesley Hirsch, *Assistant Commissioner, Research & Information, New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development*
Jesse Melvin, Ph.D. *Associate Teaching Professor of Economics, Rowan University*
Adrienne Eaton, Ph.D., *Distinguished Professor of Labor and Employment Relations, School of Management and Labor Relations, Rutgers University*
Yolanda Mack, Ph.D, *Associate Dean for Workforce Development and Industry Partnerships, Henry M. Rowan College of Engineering (moderator)*

12:00 p.m. Luncheon

12:30 p.m. Luncheon Keynote - The Data Center Next Door: Opportunity, Impact and Partnership

Charles-Antoine Beyney, *Founder & CEO, DataOne*
Anthony M. Lowman, Ph.D., *Chancellor and Professor of Biomedical Engineering, Rowan University (moderator)*

1:10 p.m. Panel III: Controlling AI: Should We, Can We, and Who Decides?

James J. King, *Executive Director, New Jersey Catholic Conference*
Patrick Murray, *Owner, Stimsight Research*
Sruthi Srinivasan, Ph.D., *Congressional Science and Technology Policy Fellow in AI, American Association for the Advancement of Science*
Nidhal Bouaynaya, Ph.D., *Associate Vice President for Artificial Intelligence, Rowan University (moderator)*

2:20 p.m. Panel IV: AI's Societal and Humanistic Impact

Molly Riley, *Climate Resilience Manager, New Jersey Future*
Al Lewis, Ed.D., *Superintendent of Schools, Glassboro Public Schools*
Maxi Heitmayer, Ph.D., *Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology, College of Science & Mathematics, Rowan University*
Tiana Noll-Walker, Ph.D. student *in Computational Biophysics, College of Science & Mathematics, Rowan University*
Nawal Ammar, Ph.D. *Dean, Ric Edelman College of Communication, Humanities & Social Science (moderator)*

3:30 p.m. Moderated Discussion: Claude Gets the Last Word

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Ric Edelman, *Founding Head, School of Financial Planning, Rowan University, and Rowan University Distinguished Lecturer*

4:00 p.m. Closing Remarks

Mark Magyar, *Director, Steve Sweeney Center for Public Policy*



The conference is sponsored by Rowan University's Steve Sweeney Center for Public Policy, the Rowan Collaborative for Artificial Intelligence Policy, the Ric Edelman College of Communication, Humanities and Social Science, the College of Science & Mathematics, the William G. Rohrer College of Business, the Green Jobs Academy and the Rowan Energy Collaborative (ROWEC).

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