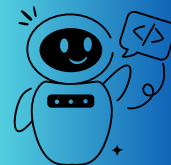# UF AI BLUESKY TASKFORCE

Taskforce Synthesis Report: April 2025

UF AI Taskforce Synthesis

Overview

The **UF AI Blue Sky Visioning Taskforce** was charged with developing a bold and innovative vision for how the University of Florida can lead in AI-driven higher education over the next five years. This initiative embodied the principles of blue sky thinking, encouraging participants to dream beyond current constraints and imagine the transformative potential of AI at UF. The Taskforce was initiated by Provost Glover in October of 2024, and led by co-chairs Dr. Kati Migliaccio and Dr. Jane Southworth.

THE ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE INITIATIVE
UF: Defining AI for Higher Education

Blue sky visioning processes are often used in strategic planning to generate innovative, unconstrained ideas that can later be refined into actionable strategies. These processes thrive on inclusivity, creativity, and collaboration, ensuring that diverse perspectives are captured. At UF, we aimed to apply these principles at scale by engaging faculty, staff, students, and external stakeholders through a series of interactive workshops designed to inspire, collect, and refine groundbreaking ideas for UF's AI ecosystem.

The UF AI BlueSky Visioning Taskforce workshops were a resounding success, engaging hundreds of participants in bold, creative thinking. With the tools and processes proposed, the taskforce can now move from ideation to actionable strategy, ensuring that UF remains at the forefront of AI-driven education and research. By leveraging both human expertise and AI capabilities, we can distill this wealth of input into a cohesive and inspiring vision for UF's future.

Key Themes Identified Across Workshops
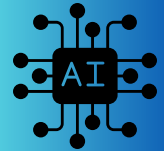
Key Themes Identified Across Workshops: Through the analysis of all 11 workshops, five dominant themes emerged:

1. **AI-Driven Education & Personalized Learning** – The idea of AI-powered tutors, study assistants, and adaptive learning platforms was a recurring theme across nearly all sessions.

2. **AI for Research & Interdisciplinary Collaboration** – Participants highlighted the need for an AI-driven research ecosystem that enhances collaboration and standardizes data access.

3. **AI for Campus Operations & Sustainability** – AI solutions for optimizing transportation, energy efficiency, and resource management were widely discussed.

4. **AI-Driven Student & Faculty Support** – AI-based career advising, faculty workload management, and mental health monitoring were frequent suggestions.

5. **AI Governance, Ethics, & Responsible AI Adoption** – Participants emphasized the need for AI governance, ethical guidelines, and AI literacy training across the university.

Taskforce Recommendations for Review
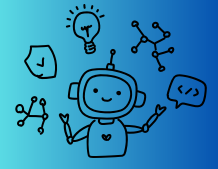
The UF AI BlueSky Visioning Taskforce synthesized insights from 11 workshops to define the top transformative AI initiatives for the University of Florida. These **seven strategic themes** aim to enhance research, education, campus operations, and sustainability through AI-driven innovation.

1. UF AI Personal Assistants: Intelligent Support for All

Goal: Develop AI-powered personal assistants tailored for students, faculty, and staff to enhance learning, research, and campus life.

Key Features:

- AI agents trained on UF-specific data for personalized assistance.
- Academic support: AI tutors, course material development, real-time captioning & translation.
- Student life and career planning guidance.
- Faculty and staff support: grant-finding, research assistance, administrative help.
- Integration across UF systems for seamless navigation of campus services.

2. UF as a Living AI Laboratory: Data-Driven Insights for Innovation

Goal: Transform UF into an AI-powered 'Living Lab' using real-time data for research, teaching, and sustainability.

Key Features:

- A **UF Digital Twin** that integrates real-time campus data for modeling, monitoring, and optimization.
- Interdisciplinary research opportunities using AI-driven campus insights.
- Sustainability applications: environmental impact tracking, resource efficiency, smart infrastructure.
- Open data hub for students and faculty to explore and contribute to real-world applications.

3. Human-AI Collaborative Agents: Intelligent Automation with a Human Touch

Goal: Develop AI-driven organizational agents that assist students, faculty, and staff while keeping humans in the decision loop.

Key Features:

- **Student AI Assistants** for advising, tutoring, financial aid, mental health support, and career guidance.
- **Faculty AI Tools** for research support, teaching enhancement, and lab operations.
- **Staff AI Agents** to streamline administrative workflows and operational efficiency.
- AI-powered **real-time language translation and accessibility tools**.
- Ethical AI integration with clear privacy and governance frameworks.

4. AI Infrastructure & Data Strategy: Building UF's AI Ecosystem

Goal: Establish a robust AI and data infrastructure to support research, teaching, and administrative efficiency.

Key Features:

- A unified **AI data strategy** for managing and optimizing UF's digital assets.
- Development of **UF-specific AI models (LLMs)** to support various disciplines and university functions.
- AI-driven **business and resource management** for more efficient campus operations.
- Expansion of AI research collaborations across UF, K-12 education, and the state.

5. AI Literacy & Workforce Readiness: Empowering the UF Community

Goal: Ensure AI literacy across students, faculty, and staff, equipping them with the skills needed for the AI-driven future.

Key Features:

- Expanded **AI training programs** for all UF members through the AI2 Center.
- Faculty development programs for **AI-powered teaching innovations**.
- AI as an **intellectual amplifier**: personalized learning, authentic assessment, and critical thinking.
- Ethical AI literacy and practical AI application training for diverse disciplines.

6. AI for Environmental Resilience & Sustainability

Goal: Leverage AI and digital twin technologies to enhance UF's sustainability and resilience.

Key Features:

- **AI-powered environmental monitoring** for natural resource management.
- **Smart infrastructure** optimization using real-time sensing data.
- A research-driven **AI Sustainability Lab** to study campus-wide ecological impact.
- Ethical and privacy-focused AI integration for environmental research.

7. AI & Robotics for Smart Campus Operations

Goal: Use AI-driven robotics and automation to enhance UF's operational efficiency.

Key Features:

- AI-powered robotics for **campus maintenance and facilities management**.
- Smart automation for energy efficiency, safety monitoring, and logistics.
- Research and development of AI-powered **robotic systems for hands-on student learning**.
- Integration of robotics into UF's **Living AI Lab** for testing and real-world applications.