



Sam Houston State University

MEMBER THE TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

Sumanth Yenduri, PhD

Office of the Provost

Dear colleagues,

March 23-27 is [AI Week at SHSU](#). This week will include in-person and virtual events for faculty, staff, and students covering topics from artificial intelligence in arts and media to research, academic integrity, practical AI training, and more.

AI has quickly become embedded in higher education in a variety of capacities, and as such, it is an important topic of discussion among colleagues, departments, and colleges as well as dedicated task forces, fellows, and work groups at Sam Houston State University (SHSU). I requested three offices that serve the university and have focused resources and projects related to AI to share their efforts and insights on the subject with Academic Affairs.

Teaching & Learning Center

Many individuals across campus may not realize that SHSU has an AI strategy and AI-related policies, and that they are deliberately ground-up and context-sensitive. The university allows us to be flexible to the evolving needs of students, faculty, and staff, without undermining the educational mission and core principles. The university does not have blanket mandates and recognizes that a one-size-fits-all strategy does not accommodate everyone.

Specifically, in the context of teaching and learning, the evidence suggests that the increasing availability of AI tools does not fundamentally change best practices. High-impact and evidence-based practices from literature are, if anything, more relevant now than ever before. For example, some of these new tools have made it easier to engage in academic dishonesty, but the best ways to respond continue to be rooted in what we know about student motivations, educational goals, and responses to incentives.

Information Technology

SHSU IT has partnered with several Academic Affairs units to implement [new AI-enabled technologies](#) to support teaching and learning, research, and overall productivity:

- **Generative AI tools** - The university offers free versions of Microsoft Copilot, Google Gemini, and Google NotebookLM for all faculty, staff, and students to use. Additional capabilities are available through paid Copilot licenses to use within the Office suite (e.g., meeting recording, document generation, spreadsheet help). Other tools have been approved for special cases.

- **AI hardware to support teaching and learning** - Piloting an approved mobile hardware solution with the College of Business Administration to run local AI models. A good use case is to demonstrate the functionality of different models in class. These devices will be available in the product catalog for faculty to purchase for classroom usage.
- **AI hardware to support research** - Piloted with several colleges (and will make generally available this month) dedicated server hardware that researchers can use to run AI jobs that require dedicated computers.

Office of Research & Sponsored Programs

[ORSP](#) is in the process of submitting a grant proposal to the U.S. Department of Defense next month that will support research in applications of AI to cybersecurity, supply chain, and critical infrastructure security. If any faculty researchers want to be involved, please reach out to [Brian Loft](#).

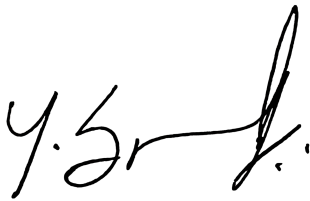
In addition to the initiatives of the three offices mentioned above, the College of Osteopathic Medicine announced the creation of a new Medical Artificial Intelligence Institute last November. The institute is an interdisciplinary initiative dedicated to advancing the integration of ethical, innovative, and patient-centered AI into medical education, research, and clinical practice. Its mission is to empower healthcare professionals with AI-driven tools and knowledge that enhance diagnostic accuracy, personalize treatment, and improve outcomes for patients across Texas and beyond.

I encourage you to attend one or more of the thought-provoking sessions during AI Week to learn more about AI at SHSU and in a broader context.

[View AI Week Schedule](#)

Sincerely,

Sumanth Yenduri, PhD



Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

This email is being sent to faculty and staff in the Division of Academic Affairs and University Leadership

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