Networking Among NAI Fellows

A Highlight from the UAA CBPP AI Showcase

In October 2024, Dr. Helena Wisniewski, a Fellow of the National Academy of Inventors (NAI), Marion Porter Endowed Chair, a Professor, and Department Chair of Management, Marketing, Logistics and Business Analytics at the University of Alaska Anchorage (UAA) was pivotal in organizing the UAA College of Business and Public Policy (CBPP) AI Showcase titled "Innovate Together: Unleashing Potential with AI."

Dr. Wisniewski, using her NAI network, invited Dr. Joseph Randall Moorman, a recently inducted NAI Fellow, who delivered a compelling presentation on "Twenty Years of AI at the Bedside," showcasing his groundbreaking medical AI applications. He is a Bicentennial Professor of Advanced Medical Analytics at the University of Virginia, and his presentation contributed significantly to the event's success. Dr. Moorman was recommended to Dr. Wisniewski by Dr. Sanberg, President of the NAI, illustrating another example of successful NAI networking.

Dr. Moorman Presenting at UAA CBPP AI Showcase

Dr. Wisniewski, an expert in AI, said that the purpose of the showcase was to show that "AI is not just a tool; it's a catalyst for innovation across every industry. The CBPP showcase was an opportunity for everyone to engage with AI's possibilities and shape a future where technology and human ingenuity work together." The showcase drew an audience of around 500, and Dr. Wisniewski invited leading experts from industry, government, and research who are pioneering AI and its applications including:

• Dr. Victoria Coleman, CEO of Acubed and former Chief Scientist of the U.S. Air Force, discussed Tactical Autonomy, including AI-piloted aircraft.
• The Alaska Department of Transportation introduced Aurora, the AI-powered robotic dog that guards perimeters.
• Clay Koplin, CEO of Cordova Electric Cooperative, Inc., showed how Digital Twins modernized their electrical grid.
• Dr. J. Randall Moorman discussed Twenty Years of AI at the Bedside.
• Dr. Bortz from UAA's College of Arts & Sciences explored AI in genomics for biosecurity.
• Dr. Heidari from the College of Engineering examined why AI must continue to evolve.
• Students from Dr. Wisniewski's AI course demonstrated their innovative community projects.

Dr. Helena Wisniewski (center) with CBPP Dean Dr. Terry Nelson (right) and Dr. Jeffries, the Showcase MC (left), at the CBPP AI Showcase.

Interactive elements like the roaming AI dog Aurora greeting participants, the drawing robot DrawBot from Las Vegas sketching faces, and an evening complete with food and live jazz music made the showcase a memorable event, underscoring vibrant network and collaboration efforts.