

DFI Faculty Newsletter

February 2026, Vol 45.

Welcome to the DFI February Faculty Newsletter!

As the Spring semester unfolds, we're excited to announce that TC students now have access to TC's Google Gemini and Notebook LM. We also invite you to join the DFI AI reading group and explore our lineup of workshops, webinars, and speaker series this semester. Check out the details below and register for what interests you.

We hope you have a wonderful month and thank you for reading!



What's New?

1. Google Gemini Now Available to All TC Students

Beginning in the Spring 2026 semester, TC provides institutional versions of Google's generative AI tools, Gemini and NotebookLM, to the student community. These services are available through the TC Google Apps account and are designed to support academic work, including idea generation, content drafting, and information summarization.

To support your students in using these tools effectively, explore [DFI's Google Gemini for Student's page](#) for guidance and resources, or [share this recording of the AI for TC Students Webinar](#).

If you have any questions, concerns, or would like to discuss how you can utilize AI in your course, [please reach out to DFI](#), and we will assist you!

[View more resources for AI in Education at TC](#)

2. Join DFI's AI Reading Group

Would you like to cut through the noise surrounding AI in Education and engage in a critical and thoughtful discussion with TC students, staff, and faculty? The AI & Ed Reading Group is a collective focused on thinking through big ideas at the bleeding edge of issues of AI and education.

Each session, we'll dive into a carefully selected article exploring topics like AI tutoring systems, algorithmic bias in educational technology, the impact of generative AI on student work, emerging pedagogical approaches in an AI-enhanced world, and more.

No prior expertise in AI required. This is a welcoming place to share perspectives, ask questions, and learn. Just bring your curiosity and willingness to think critically about these rapidly evolving issues.

[Access the sample texts and register for this hybrid event.](#)

Time: 12:00 - 1:00 PM

Location: In-person – Digital Futures Institute, Russell Hall 5th Fl. & Online – Zoom

[Join the Reading Group](#)

Upcoming Faculty PD



DFI Masterclass: Universal Design for Learning (UDL) in 30 Minutes

Tuesday, February 10, 2026
11:00 AM - 11:30 AM

Online via Zoom

A practical introduction to UDL principles with easy classroom applications. Faculty will learn small design choices, multiple formats, flexible activities, that reduce barriers and increase participation.

[Register](#)

AI in 30 Minutes: Your AI-Organized Digital Notebook using NotebookLM

Thursday, February 19, 2026
12:00 PM - 12:30 PM

Online via Zoom

In just 30 minutes, see how to build your own custom AI-powered notebook. Upload PDFs, websites, YouTube videos, audio, Google Docs, or Slides. NotebookLM will summarize them, connect ideas, create a podcast and flashcards, and answer your questions. Great for studying, teaching, or planning —your notebook, your way.



[Register](#)



From Seeds to Scale: Insights from 20 Years at IES Turning Education Research into Real-World Impact at Scale

Wednesday, February 25, 2026
12:00 PM - 1:30 PM

Smith Learning Theater

In this DFI Speaker Series talk, Dr. Edward Metz presents key findings from the 2025 report From Seeds to Scale, which examines the social and economic impact of the ED/IES Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) program between 2013 and 2023. The program serves as a critical source of early-stage capital for research-based education technology products. Metz shares results showing that research-based products emerging from the program reached more than 130 million learners and educators and generated an estimated 9:1 return on federal investment. He discusses how the ED/IES SBIR program pioneered approaches to integrating rigorous research into the iterative R&D of commercially viable EdTech products, while also engaging academic researchers in commercial product development as a mechanism for readying evidence for scale. The talk concludes with reflections on the dismantling of IES in March 2025 and why a next-generation IES is essential to ensuring that evidence-based research informs practice and improves outcomes for students.

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