Fostering AI Literacy and Workforce Readiness: Broward College's Blue Collar AI Project

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Abstract

This paper aims to present an overview of the 'Blue Collar AI of Broward College' initiative. It explores the intersection of artificial intelligence (AI) programs within higher education, focusing on fostering innovation and accessibility to AI-related career pathways. The draft will detail the specific program at Broward College designed to increase enrollment in AI-focused degrees and certifications, particularly among economically disadvantaged and nontraditional students. By building partnerships with industry leaders and utilizing problem-based learning approaches, the project seeks to bridge the AI skills gap and create a sustainable, diversified workforce. Expected impacts include enhanced AI workforce readiness, improved pathways for disadvantaged students, and broader access to AI-related career opportunities.