

Press Release: [AFT to Launch National Academy for AI Instruction with Microsoft, OpenAI, Anthropic and United Federation of Teachers](#)

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Tool used to create summary: [MyMemo](#)

### Overview of the Initiative:

- The project is a \$23 million educational initiative announced on July 8, 2025, aimed at providing AI training and curriculum for educators.
- It will primarily serve the AFT's 1.8 million members, focusing first on K-12 teachers.
- The training will take place at a specialized facility in Manhattan intended for AI education.

### Goals of the Academy:

- To fill the gap in structured and accessible AI training for educators and to create a national model for AI integration in teaching.
- The academy will support approximately 10% of the U.S. teaching workforce (around 400,000 educators) over five years, impacting over 7.2 million students.
- The initiative promotes educators taking ownership of AI tools to enhance their teaching methodologies and improve student interaction.

### Industry Partnerships and Support:

- The partnership involves major tech companies: Microsoft as the lead partner, with founding support from OpenAI and Anthropic.
- Leaders from these organizations emphasize the importance of educator involvement in AI development to ensure it benefits students.
- AFT President Randi Weingarten highlights the commitment to utilizing AI to enhance, not replace, the personal connections educators have with students.

### Key Features of the Academy:

- The program will offer workshops, online courses, hands-on training, and credential pathways to promote AI literacy.
- It aims to help educators adapt to technological advancements and address their ethical use of AI.
- Innovation labs and regular feedback rounds will allow the program to refine AI tools based on classroom experiences.

### Educators' Perspectives:

- Teachers express optimism about AI tools helping facilitate communication and easing workflow.
- They underline the transformative potential of AI in education, comparing it to the introduction of word processors in classrooms.
- Testimonials shed light on how AI can assist with lesson planning and student data analysis.

### Conclusion and Future Vision:

- The academy represents a pioneering approach to equipping educators with critical AI skills, ensuring equitable access to technology in education.
- The initiative envisions a robust support network for teachers, preparing them for an evolving digital landscape, ultimately benefiting all students regardless of background.