



Northeastern  
University

# Bridge to AI: Transforming Outcomes for East Bay Youth



***Bridge to AI is more than a program—it's a pathway.***

***“In the age of AI, East Bay youth deserve every opportunity to ignite their potential. We're not just preparing young people for the future, we're helping them shape it—with education rooted in ethics, belonging, and intergenerational connections.”***

**-Alli Chagi-Starr, Program Director, Bridge to AI  
Interim Director, Upward Bound, Northeastern University**



# Mission & Impact

Rooted in Oakland, Bridge to AI introduces students to responsible AI through ethics, foundational skills, interactive skill building, and professional pathways, while providing a certificate of completion to support college and career journeys.

In Summer 25, we piloted our first Bridge to AI program as part of our paid internship program with 30 rising juniors and seniors graduating with a certificate of completion.



# Program Design Lead



**Alli Chagi-Starr, MBA**  
Bridge to AI Program Director,  
Interim Director, Upward Bound

# Northeastern Advisors



**Carrie Maultsby-Lute**  
Head of Partnerships,  
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Northeastern



**Nikki Lowy**  
Community and Government  
Engagement, City AI Working  
Group, Northeastern

# Trainers & Community Partners



**Rasika Bhalerao, PhD**  
Asst. Teaching Professor  
Khoury College, Northeastern



**Jenée Smith**  
Software Developer  
AI/STEM Trainer



**Selena Wilson**  
CEO, East Oakland Youth  
Development Center



**Kennan Scott**  
Co-Director  
Empathway Designs

# Core Program Components



## Foundational

Offering a foundational understanding of the impact of AI, skill building across applications, how AI is used in the workplace and considerations for educational settings



## Ethical

Rooted in ethical and responsible frameworks addressing the pitfalls of bias, unexamined informational sources, sustainability, equity, and developmental considerations



## Interactive

Participants receive team building skills, hands on projects, peer-to-peer support and mentorship from faculty, staff, and industry professionals.



## College & Careers

College access and career support, certificates of completion, professional career panel, coaching, and support for full-ride scholarships to Northeastern

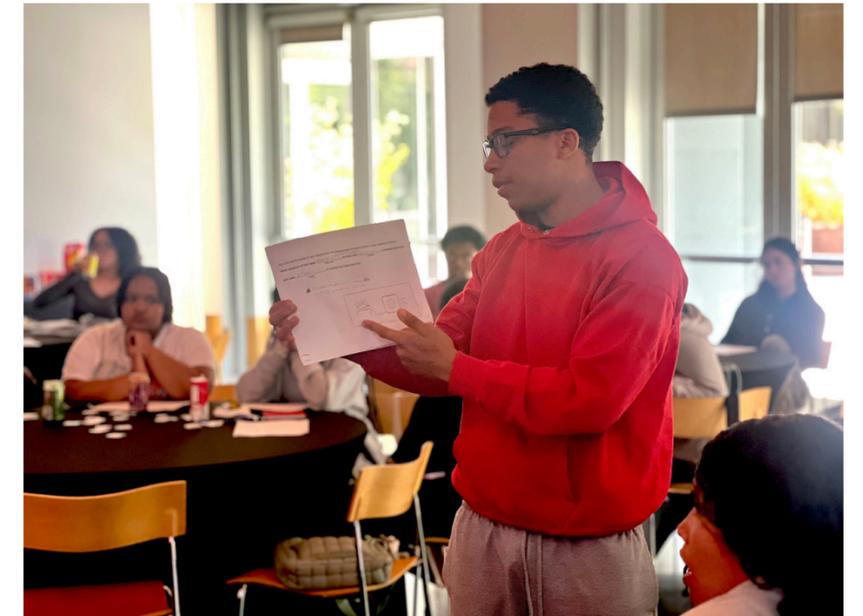
# Bridge to AI: Moving Forward

## Solving the Tech Divide & Preparing Oakland Youth for the Future

- Training 75+ Oakland Youth in 2025-26!
- Partnership with Oakland Technical HS this fall!
- Partnering with East Oakland Youth Development Center - Paid Internships!
- Launching AI Educators Working Group this month!

Also launching/scaling AI work with:

- Small business
- College students
- City of Oakland
- Lead by Learning
- Senior citizens, and beyond!



**Responsible AI knowledge and inclusive STEM pathways are essential to the long-term resilience and prosperity of our city.**

# Thank You!

*“Bridge to AI is about more than technology—it’s about empowering students to use AI for good, and to do it ethically. We want to empower a new generation of leaders who are equipped to tackle society’s biggest challenges with innovation, integrity, and an eye for AI’s impact on communities..”*

-Dr. Rasika Bhalerao, Khoury College of Computer Sciences

