

## **Industry Spotlight: Artificial Intelligence (AI)**

As Artificial Intelligence (AI) has become such an integral part of modern business operations and transforming the way work is done, this month we are featuring AI as our industry spotlight!

According to recent studies, 37% of organizations have already implemented AI in some form and we can expect that number to rise. By 2030, AI-driven solutions are predicted to contribute up to \$15 trillion to the global economy. As AI continues to embed itself in the fabric of business, it is crucial for students to prepare and be ready for a workforce that increasingly relies on AI technology.

Take a moment to get to know AI in this rapid-fire Q&A Session!

### **What skills should students develop to effectively utilize AI in their careers?**

**AI:** Students should focus on both technical and soft skills. On the technical side, understanding programming languages is crucial, as these are commonly used in AI development. Familiarity with machine learning frameworks is also beneficial. Additionally, having a strong foundation in mathematics, particularly in areas like linear algebra, calculus, and statistics, is essential.

On the soft skills side, critical thinking and problem-solving are key. The ability to analyze complex problems and devise effective solutions will be invaluable. Communication skills are also important, as explaining AI concepts to non-technical stakeholders is often necessary.

### **Q: Are there specific educational paths or courses that you recommend?**

**AI:** Many community colleges and universities now offer specialized programs in AI and machine learning, which provide a comprehensive education in these fields. Courses in data science, computer science, and information technology are also highly relevant.

### **Q: How can students gain practical experience in AI?**

**AI:** Practical experience is crucial for understanding how AI works in real-world applications. Internships at relevant IT/Tech companies provide hands-on experience and exposure to industry practices. Participating in coding clubs and competitions can also be beneficial. Additionally, working on personal projects, such as developing simple AI models or contributing to open-source AI projects, can help students build their portfolios and gain practical skills.

### **Q: What role do ethics and data privacy play in AI, and how should students approach these topics?**

**AI:** Ethics and data privacy are critical components of AI. Students should be aware of the ethical implications of AI, such as bias, fairness, and accountability. Courses on AI ethics and responsible AI use are increasingly available and highly recommended. Understanding data privacy laws and regulations is also important. Students should strive to utilize AI in an ethical and responsible way.

### **Q: How do you foresee AI evolving in the workforce, and what should students be prepared for?**

**AI:** AI will continue to evolve and integrate more deeply into various aspects of the workforce. Students should be prepared for a dynamic environment where continuous learning is necessary. Staying updated with the latest advancements in AI and related technologies is crucial. Flexibility and adaptability will be key, as the roles and responsibilities related to AI will likely change over time.

Overall, students should embrace a mindset of lifelong learning and remain curious about new developments. By combining technical skills with a strong ethical foundation, students can position themselves to be leaders in the AI-driven future.