

UNC Asheville to Host AI Summit 2026

Bringing Together Leaders Across Healthcare, Technology, Advanced Manufacturing and Education

University of North Carolina Asheville will serve as the proud home of the brAln Hub AI Summit 2026, a two-day premier gathering of artificial intelligence professionals, researchers, practitioners, and educators set for June 4–5, 2026, at the Sherrill Center and Kimmel Arena on the UNC Asheville campus, 227 Campus Drive, Asheville.

The summit, organized in partnership with the Land of Sky Regional Council's Mountain Area Workforce Development Board and supported by NC Innovation and regional sponsors, will convene innovators and forward-thinking practitioners. The event will feature inspiring keynote addresses, interactive breakout sessions, expert-led workshops, and high-value networking opportunities designed to equip attendees with practical AI skills and forge meaningful cross-sector collaborations.

"Artificial intelligence is not a distant concept — it is the defining force shaping every industry and every career path our students will enter. At UNC Asheville, we believe higher education has a responsibility to lead in this moment. By hosting the brAln Hub AI Summit, we are placing our students, faculty, and community at the center of the AI conversation, ensuring that our graduates are not just prepared for the careers of today, but are equipped with the tools, the critical thinking, and the adaptability to thrive in the careers of tomorrow. UNC Asheville is committed to making sure every student has access to the knowledge and resources that AI has to offer."

— Dr. Yvonne Villanueva-Russell, Provost, UNCA

The brAln Hub AI Summit is designed as more than a traditional conference. It is a vibrant ecosystem where groundbreaking ideas are shared, transformative technologies are unveiled, and lasting collaborations are forged. Whether attendees are seasoned AI experts, academic researchers, or forward-thinking professionals new to the field, the summit is designed to provide invaluable insights, practical skills, and unparalleled networking opportunities.

Attendees will discover the tools, strategies, and best practices needed to implement AI solutions effectively and ethically, driving innovation and creating positive impact across industries. Keynote speakers and session details will be announced in the coming weeks.

About UNC Asheville

Founded in 1927, UNC Asheville is a proud member of the University of North Carolina System. With award-winning faculty, small class sizes, and 90+ academic programs in the natural sciences, human sciences, humanities, arts, and social sciences, US News & World Report 2025 edition of Best Colleges ranked UNC Asheville No. #9 in Top Public Schools, and No. #7 in Princeton Review's 2025 Top 50 Guide to Green Colleges. The university is committed to integrating emerging technologies — including artificial intelligence — into academic programs to ensure students are equipped to compete and lead in a rapidly changing world.

For more information, please visit: [UNCA.edu](https://unca.edu).

Event Highlights

Over two full days, the summit will feature:

- Multiple keynote presentations from leading AI experts and industry innovators
- Four concurrent breakout sessions per time block, covering AI applications across Healthcare, Technology, Media & Entertainment, Advanced Manufacturing, and Education
- A Thursday evening Networking Social Event offering attendees the opportunity to connect with peers and potential collaborators
- A Student Contest and an Educator Award, recognizing the next generation of AI innovators and educators driving AI integration in classrooms
- Meals and networking breaks provided throughout both days

Summit Details

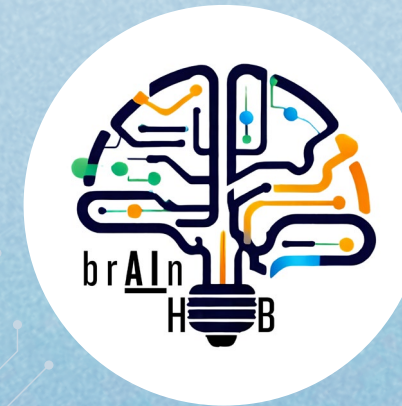
Dates: June 4–5, 2026

Location: Sherrill Center and Kimmel Arena, UNC Asheville, 227 Campus Drive, Asheville, NC 28804

Registration: Available at BrainHubSummit.com

Sponsorship: Partnership opportunities available; visit BrainHubSummit.com/sponsor

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AI SUMMIT**

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JUNE 4-5
UNC ASHEVILLE
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Mountain Area Workforce Development Board is an Equal Opportunity Employer/Provider of Employment & Training Services and is funded through the Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act (WIOA) by an award from the US Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration in the amount of Adult \$620,508, Dislocated Worker \$309,134, and Youth \$602,609 totaling \$1,532,251. Total cost for the AI Summit is 100% from non-governmental sources.