

AI Tennessee SUMMIT

MARCH 25–26, 2026 | NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE
**CONVENING TENNESSEE'S
LEADERS TO WIN THE AI RACE**

HOSTED BY



“RADICAL COLLABORATION — WE’VE GOT TO THINK RADICALLY DIFFERENT ABOUT HOW WE PARTNER, HOW WE COLLABORATE, AND HOW WE ACHIEVE THE GOALS THAT THE STATE OF TENNESSEE NEEDS.”

— Dr. Donde Plowman, Chancellor, University of Tennessee, Knoxville

BY THE NUMBERS

500 Attendees

representing government, academia, industry, startups, and nonprofit organizations

64 Speakers

across 26 sessions



All photography: Steven Bridges, UT

“MY VISION IS THAT IN THE YEARS AHEAD, WHEN PEOPLE ACROSS THE COUNTRY ASK, ‘HOW DO YOU ACTUALLY DO AI RIGHT?’ THE ANSWER WILL BE, ‘YOU DO IT THE TENNESSEE WAY.’ BY LEADING WITH PEOPLE, TRUST, AND COLLABORATION AT SCALE.”

—Dr. Lynne Parker, Former Principal Deputy Director, White House OSTP & National AI Leader

“IN AI, ADVANTAGE IS DEFINED BY COORDINATION — AND TENNESSEE IS ORGANIZED AT SCALE.”

— Dr. Vasileios Maroulas, Associate Vice Chancellor and Director of AI Tennessee

“ I GIVE YOU MY GUARANTEE THAT I WANT TO BE A PARTNER NOT ONLY TODAY WITH THE SUMMIT, BUT REALLY A **CONTINUED PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE U.S. GOVERNMENT AND THE STATE OF TENNESSEE.”**

— Dr. Ethan Klein, Chief Technology Officer,
White House Office of Science and Technology



3 KEY TAKEAWAYS AND WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

1

TENNESSEE IS ON THE NATIONAL STAGE

LEAD THROUGH COORDINATION

2

MAKE AI FLUENCY THE STANDARD

BUILD A STATEWIDE AI WORKFORCE PIPELINE

3

CORE ASSETS ALREADY EXIST

SCALE INFRASTRUCTURE AND PARTNERSHIPS



“ IT’S NOT JUST GOING TO MAKE LIFE BETTER FOR THE PEOPLE IN OUR STATE, IT’S GOING TO BE **GAME CHANGING FOR THIS COUNTRY, AND IT’LL ALLOW US TO LEAD IN THE WORLD.”**

— Bill Lee, Governor, State of Tennessee

THEMES THAT DEFINED THE SUMMIT

INFRASTRUCTURE

Energy, data centers, and compute capacity

TALENT PIPELINE

AI literacy is a must for upskilling and K-12

INDUSTRY PARTNERSHIP AND ECONOMIC COMPETITIVENESS

Aligning employers, startups, and institutions

RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

Accelerating innovation with universities, industry, and government



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AI TENNESSEE'S MISSION: to position the State of Tennessee as a leader in the global data economy