

Carolyn Speer, PhD

AI SPEAKER & CONSULTANT · HIGHER EDUCATION

AI is the blade. You are the edge.



Carolyn Speer, PhD helps colleges and universities use AI well, by growing the human judgment that decides how to use it. She directs the Office of Instructional Resources at Wichita State University, where she leads faculty development and trains more than 1,000 instructors, and she speaks nationally on AI, learning, and first-generation student success. Her approach is solutions-oriented, not tool-oriented: understand the human work first, then put AI to work in support of it.

SPEAKING TOPICS

KEYNOTES The Human in the Loop • Will AI Undermine Learning? • AI & First-Generation Student Success
WORKSHOPS Five Exercises to Build AI Fluency • Designing Assignments for the AI Era • The AI Maturity Matrix
FOR STUDENTS Helping Students Help Themselves • When AI Helps You Learn, and When It Doesn't

Every booking includes a one-hour planning consultation so the talk fits your audience • available in person or remotely • fees work with a range of budgets.

SELECTED ENGAGEMENTS

- Keynote, NASPA Region IV-West Summer Critical Conversations on First-Generation Student Success, 2026
- Invited session, FirstGen Forward Network Champion Convening, Austin, 2026
- Keynote, College Reading & Learning Association (CRLA), Heartland Chapter, 2026
- What You Need to Know About Generative AI Right Now, Kansas Board of Regents, 2025
- Generative AI consulting for faculty and students, Hastings College, 2025

CREDENTIALS & HONORS

- Director, Office of Instructional Resources, Wichita State University
- Professor of Educational Psychology; teaches learning theory & instruction
- PhD, Adult & Continuing Education; research on first-generation student success
- Leadership in the Advancement of Teaching Award, Wichita State University
- Anthology Catalyst Award for Faculty Training and Development

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