**Saturday, October 4, 2025 Pre-Conference Session**

**1:00 – 4:00 p.m. PT**

**Loews Coronado Bay Resort**

**4000 Coronado bay Road**

**Coronado, CA 92118**

**Beyond the Algorithm- Embedding Creativity, Connection & Capital for Student Success in the AI Era**  
***Workshop Description***In an age when machines chat, recommend, and outperform at breakneck speeds, what remains undeniably—and unreplicably—human? This timely workshop invites faculty to the creative frontier, where human ingenuity, meaningful connections, and real-world readiness converge. At its heart: a fresh, research-backed blueprint for embedding creative thinking, innovation—the essential skill of the AI era—directly into your instruction.  
  
This year’s session delivers even more: Faculty are invited to bring their course syllabus—not just as a reference, but as the canvas for reinvention. Through guided collaboration, you will workshop and actively embed creativity, innovation, and connection into your syllabus, leaving with a newly transformed outline ready to deliver real impact in your classroom.  
  
Engage with fellow educators as you discover how belonging, mentorship, and dynamic engagement cultivate the vital “3 Cs”: Creativity, Connection, and Capital. You’ll uncover concrete strategies, such as divergent thinking, near-peer mentorships, and internship pathways, that build networks of social capital, propelling students toward outcomes that last long past the final grade.  
  
Guided by interactive reflection that leverages active and creative thinking strategies, the workshop reveals the genius—and the limits—of AI’s “talkative tech.” Walk away with both a revitalized course and insight into what makes human creativity flourish, learning practical ways to position AI as your muse and amplifier.  
  
***Exclusive for NACCE Members***:  
As a culminating highlight, participants will have the unique opportunity to enroll in ongoing support to fully integrate these approaches into their pedagogy as part of an innovative pilot network. Elevate your teaching and join a community of forward-thinking educators shaping the future of learning.  
  
***Why Faculty Will Sign Up***- Bring Your Syllabus, Leave With a Blueprint: Arrive with your course syllabus and finish with a transformed version, ready to spark creativity and connection.  
  
***- Tangible Impact:*** Master actionable strategies for weaving creativity, mentorship, and innovation into any discipline.

***- Professional Edge:*** Equip yourself—and ultimately your students—with the creative mindset and connections needed for success in the future of work.  
  
***Redefine your teaching. Shape the future. Be the human difference.***

***Who Should Attend***

This workshop is designed for **faculty members across all disciplines** who are ready to rethink their teaching approach in light of the AI era. Ideal participants include:

* **Instructors seeking to embed creativity and innovation** into their courses in practical, actionable ways.
* **Educators interested in leveraging AI** not just as a tool, but as a catalyst for deeper human connection and learning.
* **Faculty eager to reimagine their syllabus** and classroom experience to better equip students for a rapidly evolving future of work.
* **Professionals invested in student success beyond academics**, including mentorship, belonging, and social capital development.
* **Members of NACCE** who want to be part of a pioneering pilot network focused on long-term implementation and support.

Whether you teach STEM, humanities, business, or the arts, if you're looking to **bring fresh energy, purpose, and strategy** to your instruction—this session is for you.

**Speaker Insights:**

**A person with dark hair wearing a white shirt and earrings

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**Anita Balaraman** is the Founder and CEO of Epixego, Adjunct Professor at UC Berkeley

Anita is a technology product leader with more than 10 years of experience in building technological products that delight the customers both in the B2B and B2C domain. She is also an adjunct faculty at UC Berkeley, teaching and coaching hi-tech product management. She is currently the founder of an early stage ed-tech startup. Most recently she led the digital customer experience practice at Cisco Systems, designing and launching enterprise solutions for customer experience. Prior to that, she led the product team at Walmart Labs launching products that combine machine learning, predictive analytics and personalization. She consults independently and on the board of technology startups in the advertising, ecommerce, and ed-tech space. Anita received her MS in toxicology and applied statistics, and an MBA, both from the University of California, Berkeley.

**A person in a suit

AI-generated content may be incorrect.**

**Robert “Rob” Morgan** is a professor at Washington University in St. LouisRob is a multi-disciplinary artist, designer, speaker, professor, and author of *The Art of Scenic Design: A Practical Guide to the Creative Process*. From designing everything from theme parks to stained glass, Rob has assimilated his experiences as a designer into being an instructor on and researcher of the topic of creativity. His Creativity Call (https://www.creativitycall.com) has been presented nationally and internationally and serves as a clarion call for students and educators to ‘elevate and celebrate’ creative intelligences in our students and at a time in history when those talents are more valuable than ever!

Rob has designed professionally in the areas of theatre, film, museum, and theme park venues. Avatar the Exhibition (museum exhibit) originally designed for Experience Music Project in Seattle toured in the U.S. and Canada for 3 years.

He is in his 15th year of teaching at Washington University having relocated to St. Louis following 3 years as an Assistant Professor in Scenic Design at the University of Washington in Seattle.