RVBAT Meeting – June 3, 2026

Meeting Purpose

Discuss AI's impact on education, cybersecurity, and policy.

Key Takeaways

- **AI's Cognitive Risk:** Over-reliance on AI for basic tasks (cognitive offloading) risks eroding critical thinking, attention spans, and the ability to ask complex questions.
- **"Human in the Lead" Model:** The group adopted this principle, replacing "human in the loop," to emphasize human orchestration of AI, not just supervision.
- **Cybersecurity Threat:** AI-powered attacks are escalating, targeting K-12 data (SSNs, health records) and older adults, who lost $2.4B to fraud in 2024.
- **Policy & Advocacy:** Rep. Wynn will champion a new Oregon Tech Caucus. OSU is applying for a key NSF grant to become the state's AI workforce hub, a role that will shape future grant funding.

Topics

AI's Impact on Cognitive Development

- **Cognitive Offloading:** Using AI for repetitive tasks risks atrophying skills like attention span and independent work.
    - **Example:** Memorizing multiplication tables makes factoring trinomials efficient; offloading this to a calculator triples the time and prevents understanding the underlying logic.
- **Erosion of Original Thought:** AI-generated content is becoming the "middle ground."
    - **Metric:** Original thoughts in college essays dropped 18% since ChatGPT launched.
- **Educational System Misalignment:**
    - **Gatekeeper Math:** Algebra II acts as a gatekeeper for practical statistics courses, hindering students who struggle with abstract algebra but excel at spatial reasoning.
    - **Rapid Obsolescence:** The "learn to code" push became obsolete in ~6 months, causing a ~60-70% drop in entry-level coding jobs.

AI's Ethical & Societal Risks

- **Fake Scholarly Articles:** AI is creating and attributing fake papers to real authors, polluting the internet with misinformation.
- **Deepfakes & Consent:** A conference speaker created a digital twin of an organizer without her consent, highlighting the need for regulation.
- **Cybersecurity & Fraud:**
  - **K-12 Vulnerability:** Attacks are escalating (e.g., Central Oregon Community College: 5→3,000-5,000/day).
  - **High-Value Target:** K-12 data includes SSNs, health records, and addresses—a rich source for long-term identity theft.
  - **Outdated Regulations:** FERPA (1970s) and SIPA (1990s) are inadequate for modern threats.
  - **Older Adult Fraud:** Losses increased from $1.9B (2023) to $2.4B (2024).
- **"Mythos" AI Model:** This Anthropic model finds software vulnerabilities so effectively it is considered too dangerous to release.

Policy & Advocacy

- **OSU NSF AI Workforce Hub Grant:**
  - **Goal:** Become Oregon's official AI workforce coordination hub.
  - **Significance:** The $1M/3yr grant will establish the platform for future state and federal AI funding.
  - **Concern:** The proposal focuses on industry needs, not community impacts (e.g., data center siting, water use).
- **New Oregon Tech Caucus:**
  - **Champion:** Rep. Wynn will lead the caucus to educate legislators on tech issues.
  - **Context:** Rep. Wynn is now the lead on broadband policy, taking over from Rep. Marsh.
  - **Rationale:** The recent primary elections showed data center land use is a critical political issue.

Next Steps

- **Jackie:**
  - Coordinate with Rep. Wynn to launch the Oregon Tech Caucus.
  - Contact Rep. McLean to join the caucus.
- **Victor:**
  - Share details for the OSU NSF AI grant (LOI: June 15; Collaboration: July 15; Proposal: July 23).
  - Present to RVCOG board on AI's risks and benefits.