



# The Institute for Applied AI Innovation (AII)

*Applied AI for Real-World Impact • Driven by Interdisciplinary Innovation • Built on Regional Strengths.*

## WHY AII?

AI should bridge gaps, not widen them.

At AII, we believe in AI as a powerful engine for economic growth and innovation—strengthening businesses, enhancing critical infrastructure, and improving educational, health, and security outcomes. Achieving this potential means developing AI solutions close to the people and places they impact, ensuring relevance, effectiveness, and trust.

Founded in 2025 with support from the UT Regents' Research Excellence Program, AII takes a fresh, context-driven approach to artificial intelligence. We leverage the unique resources of our region—the dynamic U.S.-Mexico border, extensive binational trade, bilingual talent, and proximity to strategic defense hubs—to create adaptive, scalable AI solutions. By anchoring innovation in the distinctive assets of our location, AII drives regional transformation with global reach and lasting impact.

## MISSION

To build the infrastructure, partnerships, and talent pipeline that positions our region to contribute to American AI leadership — creating an innovation ecosystem where researchers, entrepreneurs, and organizations develop and deploy AI solutions that deliver measurable results to enhance business competitiveness, address national priorities, and contribute to regional prosperity.

## WHAT WE DO

- **Applied AI Research:**  
Sponsored research projects addressing complex industry and societal challenges.
- **Workforce & Professional Development:**  
Professional training and certifications to build AI-ready talent.
- **Thought Leadership & Convening**  
Convenings, publications, and collaborations that shape the future of applied AI.
- **AI Consulting:**  
Expert support to help organizations apply the AI knowledge to their specific challenges.
- **Public Policy & Societal Impact:**  
Evidence-based research on AI governance, ethics, and societal implications.
- **Commercialization & Entrepreneurship:**  
Transforming research into scalable AI-driven products, services, and companies.

## FOCUS AREAS

- **Health & AI:**  
Advancing diagnostics, personalized medicine, and optimized health systems.
- **AI in Education & Workforce:** Preparing a diverse workforce through AI-driven training.
- **Border Logistics:**  
Optimizing cross-border trade and logistics with tailored AI solutions.
- **Defense & Cybersecurity:** Strengthening infrastructure and national security through AI innovation.
- **Economic Development & Innovation:**  
Catalyzing regional growth through high-impact ventures.



- **Energy & Water Solutions:** Pioneering AI for renewable energy, climate resilience, and sustainable resource management.
- **Community Engaged AI:** Co-creating culturally relevant AI solutions with local communities

## CAPABILITIES & INFRASTRUCTURE

- **Advanced Cyberinfrastructure – Selected examples include:**
  - UTEP Cyberinfrastructure for Scientific and Machine Learning Applications – GPU resources through NVIDIA H100 DGX and HGX systems
  - High-performance computing through national programs and UT System Texas Advanced Computing Center
  - Visualization Wall - ultra-high resolution display surface geared for Scientific Exploratory Research and Collaboration
- **Training Programs:** Advanced AI training miniseries, Google Cloud Skills Boost, and discipline-specific capacity building, reskilling/upskilling
- **Spaces for Collaborative Work:** Located in UTEP's Interdisciplinary Research Building, AAll offers dedicated physical spaces for ideation, innovation, and training

## WHY PARTNER WITH AAIL?

- **Interdisciplinary Excellence:**  
Collaborate with experts across diverse fields—engineering, health, logistics, cybersecurity, and education—to drive holistic innovation.
- **Trusted Infrastructure:**  
Utilize advanced cyberinfrastructure, specialized AI facilities, and a collaborative innovation platform for seamless project development and deployment.
- **Context-Driven Innovation:**  
Co-create AI solutions designed for real-world effectiveness, generating measurable regional growth, enhanced competitiveness, and global visibility.
- **Talent Pipeline:**  
Connect directly with a diverse, skilled, and AI-ready workforce trained through specialized programs and professional certifications.
- **Commercialization Opportunities:**  
Benefit from flexible intellectual property agreements, startup incubation support, and accelerated pathways from research to market.

## LEADERSHIP

- **Dr. Cauam Cardoso** – Executive Director | [cferreiracard@utep.edu](mailto:cferreiracard@utep.edu)
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