

Fram Focus volume 11:6 – January 2026

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Fram Faculty Toolbox: New Resource

- A shared, evolving collection of resources that invites faculty engagement around applied critical thinking and AI.
- **Let's build resources!** Calling all faculty or staff who have best practices or great ideas for AI & Critical Thinking to share a short video within the Fram Faculty Toolbox.

Call for Collaboration

- **Let's build an NSF Center!** Are you already applying AI in your teaching or research and interested in joining a small, expert-driven group to help shape the next generation of AI-enabled learning and critical-thinking pedagogy at RIT?

Co-Sponsored

- **Critical Thinking Conversations: Learning and Professional Identity in the Age of AI:** March 19, 2026, 7:00 pm.

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- Peter Bealo, Fram Executive Advisory Board Member.

From Gene Fram

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- [Research: Executives Who Used Gen AI Made Worse Predictions](#)
- [How To Stay Ahead of AI – The Human Skills Universities Must Teach](#)

FRAM FACULTY TOOLBOX: NEW RESOURCE

- The Fram Faculty Toolbox is a growing collection of practical resources that support applied critical thinking in teaching, learning, and leadership. The Toolbox includes guides, examples, and draft materials designed to be adapted and used flexibly across contexts.
- **Faculty** are invited to join the Fram Toolbox as members—exploring resources, sharing insights or examples, and contributing materials that align with ACT principles including assignment design and AI as the collection continues to grow. To explore the Fram Faculty Toolbox and request membership to our new SharePoint page, click [HERE](#).
- **Let's build resources!** Calling all faculty or staff who have best practices or great ideas for AI & Critical Thinking to share a short video within the Fram Faculty Toolbox. Presentations are being recorded in short video format and will be available to the RIT Facstaff community. The goal is to build a resource set for all. Each contributor controls what they share and can have it updated or removed at any time.

Details: Looking for max 5 min presentations introducing your best practices for great teaching & learning of critical thinking, either with or without AI. Ideas welcome! Areas of interest include:

Assignment design examples:

- Integration of AI in assignment design with assessment of student ability
- Ways to augment your teaching with AI
- How to wall off AI use without going old school, blue book, handwritten work.
- And MORE!

Access is important! Presentations do not have to be professionally produced but should be captioned/ transcript available. Got ideas? Want to talk through it? Fram Chair, Jen Schneider, jlvcem@rit.edu.

CALL FOR COLLABORATION

- **Let's build an NSF Center!** Are you already applying AI in your teaching or research and interested in joining a small, expert-driven group to help shape the next generation of AI-enabled learning and critical-thinking pedagogy at RIT?

As part of a new initiative launching from the AI Hub in early 2026, we are assembling a high-level, interdisciplinary team - a select cohort of faculty prepared to advance AI-enabled teaching practices and lay the groundwork for a major, multi-investigator NSF proposal.

Members will commit 2–4 hours per week to focused, outcomes-driven collaboration: developing targeted pilots, testing promising ideas, and refining approaches that strengthen student critical thinking across disciplines. Participation represents an investment of expertise and creativity aimed at generating the scholarship, infrastructure, and momentum needed for competitive external funding. If you'd like to learn more or be considered for this group, please reach out to Jennifer DiLucia at jtdfp@rit.edu.

CO-SPONSORED

- **Critical Thinking Conversations: Learning and Professional Identity in the Age of AI:** March 19, 2026, 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm, Live Zoom Webinar. As AI becomes embedded in learning and professional practice, critical thinking is a durable strategy. This live Zoom conversation brings together Dr. Vic Perotti (RIT Saunders College of Business), Dr. Jennifer Schneider (RIT's Eugene H. Fram Chair in Applied Critical Thinking), and **Dr. Chris Collison** (Professor of Chemistry and Director of the RIT AI Hub) to examine how reasoning, judgment, and professional identity evolve as machines generate knowledge at scale. Grounded in RIT's Applied Critical Thinking (ACT) framework, AI research, and business practice, the moderated discussion will use concrete, accessible examples of AI in practice to explore how educators, professionals, and institutions must adapt, and where human thinking matters most. For more information and to register, click [HERE](#).

FRAM FINDS

- **Redesign Your Course with AI in Mind:** January 30, 2026, 11:00 am – 11:50 am. Room/Location: Library Multipurpose Room, WAL-3620. This three-part, discussion-based workshop series will help you redesign parts of your course with AI in mind. Together, we will explore when and how to incorporate AI, when to limit it, and how to help students use it responsibly. Across the sessions, you will begin to shape a revised course outline that reflects intentional, thoughtful integration of AI in teaching and learning. **This session is for RIT faculty, including adjuncts and teaching assistants.** Participants should request access services if needed. To register, click [HERE](#).
- **AI Essentials for Educators:** February 5, 2026, 3:30 pm – 4:20 pm. Room/Location: SHED 4350. Join us for AI Essentials for Educators, a 4-week online course for faculty focused on practical strategies for integrating AI into teaching. This course includes 2 in-person sessions and 4 virtual course modules to be completed independently. Onsite session dates are:
 - Thursday, February 5 from 3:30-4:20 pm
 - Wednesday, March 4 from 12:00 -12:50 pmRegistering for this first session automatically enrolls you in the course and the final wrap-up session. If you cannot attend the in-person sessions due to a scheduling conflict, feel free to sign up anyway. We will provide supplemental, virtual materials. This session is for RIT faculty, including adjuncts and graduate teaching assistants. Participants should request access services if needed.
- **RIT Graduate Showcase:** April 9, 2026, 8:45 am – 5:00 pm. Location: SAU – Various Locations. Each year, the RIT community comes together to celebrate this diversity of thought and practice during the Graduate Showcase. The Showcase allows students to share their intellectual achievements with the community as presenters expound on globally impactful discoveries they have made. For more information, click [HERE](#).

A FEW THOUGHTS

In this issue, meet:

- Peter Bealo, Fram Executive Advisory Board Member. Read Peter's thoughts related to critical thinking [HERE](#).

FROM GENE FRAM

- ["Philosophy Eats AI"](#) by Michael Schrage and David Kiron, MIT SMR, January 16, 2025.
- ["Research: Executives Who Used Gen AI Made Worse Predictions"](#) by José Parra-Moyano, Patrick Reinmoeller, and Karl Schmedders, Harvard Business Review, July 1, 2025.
- ["How To Stay Ahead of AI – The Human Skills Universities Must Teach"](#) by William Arruda, Forbes, June 8, 2025.

