Workshop on

**Advances in AI and Machine Learning (AIML)**

**Panel Discussion**

**How will AI Impact the Workforce, and How Can We Get Prepared for the Impending Changes and Challenges?**

**Location: Alumni Memorial Union (AMU 163), Marquette University**

**Monday, July 15, 10:00 – 12:00 pm**

Artificial intelligence is increasingly being embraced by industry, business and society in many ways deriving several benefits. It’s also poised to change significantly the workforce landscape. A parallel can be drawn from automation in the automobile industry since early twentieth century. That wave of automation impacted only a small sector of the workforce, factory workers. But, with the pace at which AI is advancing and being adopted in many areas, a major portion of the workforce would be impacted significantly posing a few challenges such as,

* meeting more demand for people skilled in AI and related areas and challenges facing them in keeping abreast of continual developments,
* preparing workforce for several new jobs that do not exist today but will come up soon, and
* loss of employment due to jobs that will become obsolete.

The panel will examine how we can address the new realities of workforce in the age of AI. Panelists will deliberate on:

* Will a significant portion of the workforce will be replaced by AI, and how?
* Is the pace at which AI is advancing sustainable from a socio-economic perspective?
* How can a fresh college graduate continue to stay relevant and valuable in this AI and automation ecosystem?
* What can current workforce do to stay relevant and competitive?
* What steps have the panelists taken in their organizations to address workforce issues?
* While a growing number of individuals and startups are working on AI, bulk of AI development is dominated by a few global players. Does this pose a risk to the AI ecosystem, organization that consume their products and services and the end users?
* What is the role of government and industry in ensuring a sustainable workforce ecosystem in the age of AI?

Moderator

**Piyush Saxena**, Research Data Scientist at Direct Supply

Piyush Saxena’s research interests include Statistical Modelling, Machine Learning, Data Mining, Natural Language Processing, Computer Vision, and Deep Learning. Before joining Direct Supply as Research Data Scientist, he worked as the Autism clinic at Marquette University to integrate computational tools with current interventions. He received a Ph.D. degree from the Department of Mathematics, Statistics and Computer Science at Marquette University.

Panelists

**Megan A. Sheffer-Czuta,** Assistant Director of Analytics at Northwestern Mutual Data Science Institute

Dr. Megan A. Sheffer-Czuta possesses nearly a decade of leadership experience in data analytics and data science in the healthcare and finance industries, with a focus on opportunities that drive revenue, maximize efficiencies and improve client experiences. As the Assistant Director of Analytics at Northwestern Mutual Data Science Institute, Megan is focused on identifying and improving data science professional development opportunities for in-place professionals. Megan is also active in the local data and analytics community and is passionate about building and retaining the local talent ecosystem through her work with the Data-Driven Milwaukee MeetUp and Data-Driven Wisconsin Conference.

**Nithin Ramachandran,** Director of the Artificial Intelligence and Corporate Analytics at Direct Supply

Nithin Ramachandran currently serves as the Director of the Artificial Intelligence and Corporate Analytics functions at Direct Supply, and partners with cross functional areas of the business including finance, marketing, e-commerce and supply chain, to deliver revenue impacting, data-driven strategies. His experience in Space Research, Insurance, Hospitality and Healthcare, firmly grounded by an education in Chemical Engineering (Malviya National Institute, 2006) and Business Administration (Washington University in St. Louis, 2013) has given him the freedom to speak the language of data and business strategy in variety of domains. His research interests include disruptive business strategies, operational excellence, quantum models, machine learning, and applied mathematics.

**Randall Kirk,** Executive Vice President and the Chief scientist at Direct Supply

Randy Kirk serves as the Executive Vice President and the Chief scientist at Direct Supply. Randy received his undergraduate degree in Business and Computer Systems from Milwaukee School of Engineering in 1993. Since then he has served at various executive roles including the CTO at Direct Supply. Mr. Kirk is an organizer at the Data-Driven Milwaukee MeetUp and Data-Driven Wisconsin Conference.

**RJ Nowling,** Assistant Professor of Computer Science at the Milwaukee School of Engineering

RJ Nowling is an Assistant Professor of Computer Science at the Milwaukee School of Engineering, where he teaches courses in data science, machine learning, algorithms, and introductory software development. In his research, RJ studies the evolution of insect genomes through applications of data science techniques. Previously, RJ was a data science engineer in industry, where he was responsible for large, production machine learning systems for ad targeting. RJ earned his Ph.D. in Computer Science & Engineering from the University of Notre Dame and his B.S. in Computer Science and Mathematics from Eckerd College.

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