

# What can retired/emeriti professors do to accelerate the use of artificial intelligence tools?

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Retired/emeriti professors are uniquely positioned to have a meaningful impact on the adoption and ethical use of AI tools, especially given their experience, academic influence, and freedom from institutional constraints. Here are practical ways they can accelerate the use of AI tools across disciplines and sectors:

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## 1. Mentorship and Thought Leadership

- **Mentor younger academics and researchers** on how to critically and effectively incorporate AI in research, pedagogy, and interdisciplinary collaboration.
- **Write thought pieces, op-eds, or blogs** to advocate for thoughtful integration of AI in education, research, and policy.
- **Participate in or organize panels, webinars, or conferences** that bridge the gap between AI developers and domain experts.

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## 2. Curriculum Development and Education

- Help **develop AI literacy curricula** for non-technical audiences (e.g., humanities, education, social sciences).
- Serve as advisors to institutions designing **ethics-informed AI courses**.
- Create **open educational resources** (OERs) or online modules to teach AI concepts and tools to broad audiences.

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## 3. Research and Interdisciplinary Collaboration

- Partner with active faculty or research centers to **co-lead interdisciplinary AI projects**, especially those with social, ethical, or historical dimensions.
- Act as **principal investigators on grant proposals** or serve as senior advisors.
- Use their expertise to **critically assess the impact of AI** in specific fields (e.g., medicine, law, art, education).

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## 4. Advocacy and Policy Influence

- Use their academic credibility to **advocate for responsible AI use** in public policy and education.
  - Serve on **ethics committees, institutional review boards (IRBs), or advisory boards** evaluating AI tools or programs.
  - Help **bridge academia, industry, and public sectors** by advising NGOs or government agencies.
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## 5. Public Engagement and Communication

- Speak at community events or media interviews to **demystify AI for the public**.
  - Translate complex AI topics into **accessible language** for policymakers, educators, and general audiences.
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## 6. Advising Startups and Nonprofits

- Join **AI ethics boards** or serve as advisors to AI startups and nonprofits, especially those focused on education, health, or public good.
  - Use their networks to **connect AI developers with domain-specific experts**, ensuring tools are built with real-world needs in mind.
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## 7. Modeling AI Use in Their Own Work

- Incorporate AI tools in their ongoing scholarly activities: writing, archival research, translation, modeling, or data analysis.
  - Share their experiences using tools like ChatGPT, Claude, or domain-specific AIs to **encourage skeptical colleagues** to explore them.
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### Strategic Tips:

- **Focus on where their voice has credibility**: within their former institutions, professional societies, or public platforms.
- **Collaborate with active faculty or postdocs** who can implement ideas in practice.
- **Leverage emeritus status** to operate across boundaries without being bound by departmental politics or short-term incentives.