Biography

Dr. Kollin Napier is the Director of the Mississippi Artificial Intelligence Network (MAIN), the nation's first statewide artificial intelligence initiative, based at Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College (MGCCC). He leads statewide efforts to expand AI literacy, workforce development, and economic growth, delivering free, cutting-edge AI training to thousands across education and industry. Under his leadership, MAIN has delivered more than 25,000 hours of AI instruction and continues to expand its statewide impact, establishing AI labs across Mississippi's colleges and universities and building strategic partnerships with leading technology companies such as NVIDIA, Amazon Web Services (AWS), and Intel. A recognized leader in AI innovation and workforce transformation, Dr. Napier has been named 2024 Mississippian of the Year by the Association of Information Technology Professionals, received the 2025 Rising Star Manager Award from the American Association of Community Colleges, was selected as a 2025 Reveille 25 honoree by Mississippi State University, and earned the 2025 Hugh I. Peck Research Award from the Program of Research and Evaluation for Public Schools for his contributions to AI education and research. He holds a Ph.D. in Computer Science from Mississippi State University, specializing in AI, cybersecurity, and software engineering, and previously worked as a software architect and developer bridging industry and academia to help shape Mississippi's technology-driven future.