

Accelerating Careers Through AI—Learning Partnership



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Generative artificial intelligence (AI) is transforming how people enter the workforce, and staff at the American Institutes for Research (AIR) are exploring how to harness it for good. AIR has teamed up with national technology training leader [Per Scholas](#) to launch the **Accelerating Careers Through Artificial Intelligence (ACT-AI) project**. ACT-AI will test whether and how AI can improve job search and job attainment for aspiring tech professionals. This effort is being supported by the [Sector Training Evidence-Building Project \(STEP\)](#), a collaboration between Ascendium Education Group and MDRC.

Study Goals

Formative Evaluation

- ◆ Discovery reveals baseline needs and attitudes to AI adoption
- ◆ Design support creates 5 implementation models with clear theories of change
- ◆ Formative evaluation assesses feasibility, viability and results for each model

Implementation Evaluation

- ◆ Implementation study analyzes usage, learner and staff experiences, and employment and earning trends
- ◆ Results inform selection of single model for implementation across sites

Data Sources

Surveys, interviews, tool usage data, administrative baseline and outcomes data

AI-Powered Job Support Use Cases Under Current Testing

AI Powered Tool Use Cases: (1) Resume Improvement Coach to customize resumes; (2) Interview Coach to practice articulating skills; and (3) Skills Match Assessment to identify how well resumes will match required skills in job description and inform improvements. Five comparison conditions: Different combinations of tools with varying adoption support by staff.

When and Where to Find Results:

- ◆ Blog on early lessons learned (Spring 2026)
- ◆ Formative evaluation report (Fall 2026)
- ◆ Final study report (Summer 2028)
- ◆ Final study blog post (Summer 2028)

Learn more:

