



Workshop “*Developing an Entrepreneurial Mindset for Engineers in an AI-Driven World: Think Before You Prompt*”

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Dr. Ranji Vaidyanathan is a professor at Oklahoma State University who enjoys helping engineering students turn technical ideas into real-world impact. He has worked with startups, large companies, and government programs, and has guided students through innovation projects, design challenges, and entrepreneurial thinking exercises. In this workshop, he will focus on helping students build confidence in problem-solving, decision-making, and opportunity evaluation both with and without AI tools, which are skills that matter no matter what career path you choose.

AI can generate ideas fast, but does it help you choose the *right* idea? In this interactive workshop, engineering students will learn how to **evaluate opportunities twice**: first using their own reasoning and experience, and then with AI tools. By comparing the two, you’ll discover when AI adds real value and when it can mislead you.

You’ll work in teams to identify engineering problems, build value propositions, and test ideas using both human judgment and AI-assisted analysis. The goal isn’t to replace thinking with technology. It’s to **become a smarter decision-maker who knows when and how to use AI**.

This workshop is for students interested in innovation, entrepreneurship, intrapreneurship, research, or leadership. You’ll leave with practical frameworks you can apply to capstone projects, research problems, internships, and future careers – no startup required.

You will need to bring your laptop to get full benefit of this workshop.