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ISU College of Education, ISU Center for Learning and Instructional Excellence,
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Strategic LLM Selection: Choosing the Right Large Language Model for Your Use Case

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Following Dr. Bev Ray's critical examination of Large Language Models (LLMs), this interactive presentation provides faculty with a practical tool for evaluating Artificial Intelligence (AI) models for educational and personal use. In just 10-12 minutes, participants will gain direct experience comparing multiple LLMs through guided exploration. This interactive session centers around a web-based evaluation tool that provides instant access to several common LLMs, including ChatGPT, Claude, and Gemini. Rather than theoretical comparison, faculty will engage in real-time testing of LLMs using a carefully designed prompt that reveals key differences in how models respond to academic tasks. Participants will work through a suggested prompt relevant to educational contexts and observe how different models handle the same request. The session provides structured guiding questions to help faculty think critically about the outputs they receive: How accurate are the responses? Which model's style fits your needs? How do the approaches to complex topics differ? Through this hands-on comparison, faculty will move beyond AI awareness and develop practical skills for evaluating AI tools relevant to their contexts. Participants will leave with a concrete tool for testing LLMs, experience comparing multiple models, and a critical thinking framework for assessing AI outputs in their academic setting.