



# Leadership in the Age of Artificial Intelligence

A CURT AI/Technology Summit

Cincinnati Airport Marriott | Tuesday, June 9, 2026

- 7:00 AM **Networking Breakfast**
- 8:00 AM **Welcome & Opening Remarks**  
*Greg Sizemore, President, CURT*
- 8:15 AM **Building Smarter with AI**  
*Brian Gallagher, VP Corporate Development & Strategy, PPC Partners*  
Amid the noise surrounding AI, a clearer, more strategic perspective is emerging for the construction industry. Leading firms are translating potential into measurable advantage, reshaping how work is planned, executed, and delivered. This session outlines a disciplined framework spanning user adoption, risk governance, and the human and change management dynamics required to scale effectively. The result is a more confident, deliberate path forward grounded in clarity and competitive intent.
- 9:15 AM **The AI-Ready Construction Owner: Workforce Strategy for a Tight Labor Market**  
*Jake Smithwick, Associate Professor, Civil Engineering Technology & Construction Management, UNC Charlotte*  
The construction workforce squeeze is not just a contractor problem. Owners and buyers feel it through fewer bidders, higher prices, longer schedules, uneven quality, and greater delivery risk. This session shows how AI and workforce trends intersect, with practical ways owners can strengthen procurement, improve decision-making, reduce manual effort, and become a client of choice in a competitive labor market.
- 10:00 AM **Break**
- 10:15 AM **AI for the Construction Lifecycle**  
*Kathryn Schneider, Director of Technology & Business Consulting, Forvis Mazars*  
*Ryan Kauszlick, Director of Insights & Automation, Forvis Mazars*  
AI is already being used across the construction lifecycle—from estimating and contract review to jobsite progress tracking and safety insights. This session focuses on real-world AI use cases construction teams are actually using today, where they show up across the lifecycle, and what it takes to move from experimentation to adoption. Attendees will gain practical examples and a simple framework for deciding where AI can deliver value, and where to start.
- After participating in this session, attendees will be able to:
1. Recognize real-world AI use cases being applied today across key stages of the construction lifecycle, including preconstruction, project execution, and closeout.
  2. Evaluate which AI opportunities are best suited for near-term adoption based on business impact, data readiness, and team adoption—not hype.
  3. Apply a practical starting framework to prioritize, pilot, and scale AI use cases in their organization while maintaining trust, governance, and accountability.

- 11:00 AM     **AI Adoption Panel**  
***Moderator:** Brian Gallagher, VP Corporate Development & Strategy, PPC Partners  
Andy Bell, Chief Technology Officer, PPC Partners Inc.  
Craig Newell, Vice President, PPC Partners Inc.  
Matt Holzemer, Principal TIPM, Amazon Web Services  
United States General Services Administration  
Michael Ward, Construction Finance Manager, Nucor*
- 12:00 PM     Lunch
- 1:00 PM     **CURT Solutions Portal-Powered by Commodoor™**  
*Nathaniel Sizemore, Sizemore Technologies*  
The Construction Users Roundtable recently launched the CURT Solutions Portal (CSP), powered by the Commodoor™ association knowledge platform. The CSP turns CURT's institutional knowledge into governed, citation-backed decision support for members and their capital programs. CURT conference presentations (including recorded audio transcripts), podcasts, white papers, VOICE magazine articles, and working group materials - more than 20,000 digital records - have been ingested into the CSP so far. Members can ask real-world strategic, operational, and project-based questions and receive answers grounded in vetted, curated CURT content, with clickable citations for deeper review.
- 1:15 PM     **Real-Life Applications of AI**  
*Chris Carr, President & Founder, Farotech and Dynamix AI*
- 2:45 PM     **The AI Safety Net: Navigating Risk in the New Era of Construction**  
*CNA Insurance*
- 3:30 PM     **Using AI in Construction: How to Write Prompts That Drive Better Decisions**  
*Kris Jones, Graduate Program Director - M.S. Information Systems, University of Cincinnati, Carl H. Linder College of Business*  
Getting value from AI starts with knowing how to ask the right questions.  
  
This session introduces Chat in the Hat, a simple prompt-engineering framework designed for construction professionals. Attendees will learn how to structure prompts using H.A.T.: History (defining the AI's persona and background), Attitude (how the AI should interact and respond), and Task (clear, specific instructions). Using real, construction-focused examples, the presentation shows how better prompts can improve planning, documentation, analysis, and day-to-day problem-solving, turning chat tools into practical, reliable assistants rather than generic chatbots.
- 4:15 PM     **Wrap-Up**  
*Greg Sizemore, President, CURT*