

# PowerED™ by Athabasca University and Ethically Aligned AI launch Canada's first micro-credential in AI ethics

*Four-course program to help professionals and companies develop responsible AI*



**December 7, 2021 - Edmonton, AB** - PowerED™ by Athabasca University, Canada's online university, and Ethically Aligned AI, a social enterprise dedicated to helping companies develop responsible AI, have launched Canada's first micro-credential in AI ethics.

[Artificial Intelligence Ethics](#) is a four-course program that delivers foundational skills needed to address issues around the ethical development of AI systems. Courses include an Introduction to AI Ethics, Data, Machine Learning Models, and Roboethics.

As AI continues to expand into ordinary everyday business, ethical issues in AI will continue to grow. Examples of this range from privacy and consent to the use of data, biased datasets and models that can create discriminatory outcomes to bigger questions about how AI will impact jobs, human relationships, and the way society operates.

"We're already seeing the widespread impact of AI gone wrong," said Katrina Ingram, CEO of Ethically Aligned AI, "from facial recognition systems that don't work well for people of colour to job recruitment systems that discriminate against women. As companies rush to build AI-enabled solutions, they need to ensure that they are making responsible choices. Ethics as it relates to artificial intelligence requires training and most of the workforce today who are tasked with building AI systems have no educational background in this area."

## ***Online micro-credential for working professionals***

The micro-credential courses are delivered fully online and asynchronously. They are designed to provide working professionals with a flexible, accessible learning environment. Each course can be completed in two to four weeks of part-time study.

"Our courses are designed as just-in-time microlearning modules to help learners get meaningful results they can apply to their workplace challenges immediately," said Jessica Scott, director of PowerED™. "AI ethics is an emerging area and we're excited to be offering this first-of-its-kind program in a field that will have widespread impact."

The program includes interviews with global industry experts including representatives from leading groups such as IEEE and DAMA, computer scientists, business leaders, consultants, and academics. Some courses also include an AI-based simulation created by the ed-tech firm Ametros. Based on an IBM Watson natural language processing program, the simulation takes learners through an ethical dilemma while also providing an opportunity to critically reflect on the experience of engaging with an AI system.

“We’re not anti-AI,” said Ingram. “We understand the benefits this technology can offer, but we do want people to also fully consider and understand the risks involved in using this technology and to take steps to develop it with greater care. We consider this program to be the tech equivalent of occupational health and safety training.”

***The first of the four courses is available now and the full program will be available in early 2022.***

### ***About PowerED™ by Athabasca University***

PowerED™, an entrepreneurial unit within Athabasca University, builds on the university’s rich history of online learning, flexibility, and accessibility. PowerED™ embraces innovation and next-level learning. The new unit also focuses on assisting organizations to develop and deploy their own digital learning strategies. PowerED™ is committed to providing tangible tools and training to inspire breakthroughs—for individuals, employees, and organizations—with immediate impact. Power for Business. Power for People. Power for Good. [Visit PowerED.ca](http://VisitPowerED.ca)

### ***About Ethically Aligned AI***

Ethically Aligned AI is a social enterprise that’s on mission to help organizations make better choices in the development and deployment of AI systems. The company stems from graduate research conducted by Katrina Ingram which focused on applied ethics for AI development. Katrina is a seasoned executive with experience in the technology and media sectors and she was recently named one of the Top 100 Women in AI Ethics. Ethically Aligned AI produces educational content, training and workshops as well as a range of related consulting services. [Visit Ethically Aligned AI](http://VisitEthicallyAlignedAI)

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