AI | ETHICS COUNCIL

powered by **OPERATION HOPE**

2024 ANNUAL REPORT

AI ETHICS COUNCIL – INTRODUCTION

Artificial Intelligence (AI) represents one of the most significant advancements in history. The use of AI will change almost every aspect of our lives. It will create substantial opportunities and great challenges and will likely impact far beyond what we can envision today. While the future is uncertain, what is clear is that the development and implementation of these technologies will be profound. To ensure that AI has the most positive and far-reaching impact on humankind, there needs to be a forum to discuss, debate, develop, and help implement ethical principles, safety standards, guardrails, guidelines, and best practices across the AI landscape. In this way, we can work to ensure that AI evolves with maximum benefit to and minimum adverse impact on humanity, particularly the world's most disenfranchised and historically excluded populations. We created the AI Ethics Council to be that forum.

AI ETHICS COUNCIL – FORMATION

The **AI Ethics Council (AIEC)**, powered by Operation HOPE, was co-founded by Sam Altman, CEO of OpenAI, and John Hope Bryant, Founder, Chair, and CEO of Operation HOPE. Their collaboration began during a listening tour at Clark Atlanta University in the spring of 2023, where they identified and discussed shared concerns with a wide range of community leaders about bias and discrimination in artificial intelligence (AI), as well as its potential to create new economic opportunities for underserved communities. This partnership culminated in the announcement of the AI Ethics Council at the HOPE Global Forums Annual Meeting in December 2023.

The AIEC's purpose is crucial: to address the ethical implications of AI and ensure its benefits are accessible to underserved and historically excluded communities. This report provides a comprehensive overview of the Council's establishment, objectives, key activities, and progress up to November 2024 along with our strategic plan for 2025.

MISSION AND OBJECTIVES

The AIEC's primary mission is to become a leading authority in identifying, advising on, and addressing ethical issues related to AI, particularly its impact on underserved and historically excluded communities. The Council aims to:

- Establish a Council and Committee framework consisting of multidisciplinary experts dedicated to advancing AI ethics and a positive future vision for our world.
- Develop and disseminate AI ethics guidelines and best practices.
- Engage with education leaders, community leaders, business leaders, entrepreneurs, government officials, technologists, and the public to foster informed discussions and decisions on AI ethics.
- Promote ethical AI usage through education and engagement.
- Help AI foster economic empowerment, inclusion, and opportunity for all.

The AIEC has adopted the following governing principles for the creation, deployment, application, use, and monitoring of AI systems to ensure that they are safe, equitable, inclusive, and provide the greatest benefit to humankind. These principles include:

1. **Safety & Security:** AI systems must be designed to operate with safeguards to prevent harm to people, the environment, or society by using robust data security measures to protect user data from unauthorized access, misuse, manipulation, or hacking.

2. **Transparency:** AI systems should be transparent in their functioning, meaning users should be able to understand how decisions are made and how the system operates. AI systems should obtain informed consent from users for data collection and usage, ensuring transparency about how their data will be used.

3. **Accountability:** Clear accountability must be established for the actions and decisions of AI systems. It should be evident who is responsible when AI causes harm, errors, or unintended consequences and how corrective actions will be implemented promptly to address issues that arise.

4. **Privacy:** AI systems should respect and protect user privacy. Data collection, storage, and usage must adhere to privacy standards, ensuring that individuals' personal information is handled securely and transparently.

5. **Inclusivity and Fairness:** AI systems should align with societal norms, ethics, and human rights and prevent reinforcing or amplifying existing discrimination or biases. AI systems should not unfairly disadvantage any group based on race, gender, religious beliefs, socioeconomic status, or other characteristics.

6. **Sustainability:** AI systems should be developed with an awareness of their environmental and societal impacts, ensuring that they contribute to sustainable and ethical outcomes over the long term.

7. Beneficence: AI should be developed and used to promote human well-being and the common good. The development of AI should aim to maximize its positive impact on society while minimizing harm.

8. **Education and Awareness:** Educate the public about AI's benefits, risks, and ethical considerations to foster informed decision-making. Provide training for developers, users, and policymakers on ethical AI principles.

9. **Human Oversight:** AI should augment human decision-making rather than replace it entirely. Humans should retain the ability to intervene or override AI decisions, especially in high-stakes scenarios.

The Council focuses on the intersection of technology and humanity, aiming for positive, ethical, and transformative impact in areas such as economic opportunity, finance, education, policy, employment, accessibility, health and healthcare, and sustainability.

COUNCIL COMPOSITION

The Council comprises a diverse group of experts, including civil rights activists, leaders from Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), technology and business leaders, clergy, government officials, and ethicists. The inclusion of leaders from HBCUs and the civil rights community underscores the Council's commitment to ensuring that traditionally underrepresented communities have a voice in the evolution of AI.

As of November 2024, Council members include the following leaders, with plans to add four more leaders in 2025 from the AI, technology, and/or business sectors.

AIEC COUNCIL MEMBERS

**AIEC COUNCIL
CO-CHAIRS**

John Hope Bryant
Founder, Chairman & CEO
Operation HOPE

Sam Altman
Co-Founder & CEO
Open AI

COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Ambassador Andrew Young
Former United Nations
Ambassador and
Mayor of Atlanta

Dr. Bernice King, JD, M.Div
Chief Executive Officer
The King Foundation

George T. French, Jr., JD, Ph.D.
Chair of Presidents, United Negro
College Fund (UNCF) and President,
Clark Atlanta University

David Thomas, Ph.D.
President, Morehouse College
and academic scholar and
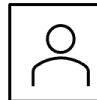business consultant to Fortune
500 companies

Helene Gayle, MD, MPH
President, Spelman
College and former CARE
President and CEO

Angela Williams, JD, M.Div
President and CEO United
Way Worldwide

TECH/AI/CORP COUNCIL MEMBERS

To Be Announced

Van Jones, JD
CNN Host and Founder, Magic
Labs Media and Dream.Org

Reid Hoffman, M.St., Philosophy
Co-Founder, LinkedIn and Partner, Greylock
Entrepreneur, Investor, Strategist

To Be Announced

To Be Announced

To Be Announced

KEY ACTIVITIES AND MILESTONES

- **December 11, 2023**: AIEC Co-Chairs Sam Altman and John Hope Bryant announce the formation of a first-of-its-kind initiative, the AI Ethics Council, at the 2023 Annual Meeting of the HOPE Global Forums in Atlanta, GA. (Operation HOPE's John Hope Bryant and Open AI's Sam Altman Announce Formation of First-of-Its-Kind AI Ethics Council at 2023 Annual Meeting of the Hope Global Forums in Atlanta | Business Wire)

- **June 28, 2024**: Inaugural Meeting of the AIEC at Operation HOPE's headquarters in Atlanta, GA. (AI Ethics Council Founded by Open AI and Operation HOPE Holds Inaugural Meeting - Operation HOPE) Council members discussed the current state of AI, its challenges and opportunities, and the crucial need to ensure equitable participation in the AI-driven economy. Council members also evaluated the initiative's areas of focus, scope, and mission. Topics covered included:
  - *The need to focus on technical capacity: how will we develop, grow, evaluate, and test the technical capacity of the system?*
  - *How to evaluate safety, reporting, and the capacity of the law to adapt?*
  - *What are the processes in place to evaluate AI?*
  - *What can be done granularly to get more components of society involved?*
  - *How can we prepare for an uncertain/undetermined future with this new tech?*
  - *How can AI benefit the world? What are the dangers? How to optimize adoption? How do we encourage equitable participation in the economic and societal benefits?*

- **July 1, 2024**: Launched AIEC website (AI Ethics Council - Operation HOPE). The Council launched the AIEC's official website to promote transparency and educate the public about AI. John Hope Bryant emphasized the importance of the website as a platform for information and engagement, stating, "I see this website as our first stake in the ground. Its substance will grow, expand, and deepen over time. Transparency will be a hallmark."

- **July/August 2024**: AIEC initiative leaders began work on Council and Committee framework, governance structure, fundraising strategies and efforts, and other activities, informed by feedback from the Council's inaugural meeting.

- **August/September 2024**: Outreach began to potential Committee members across wide-ranging sectors, including AI/technology, business/finance, community leaders including civil rights and consumer advocates, academia/research, law, think tanks and other nonprofits.

- **October 15, 2024**: The Council announced the addition of Reid Hoffman and Van Jones as new members, bringing valuable expertise in technology, business, and social advocacy to the group. (AI Ethics Council Welcomes LinkedIn Co-Founder Reid Hoffman and Commentator, Founder and Author Van Jones as Newest Members | Business Wire)

- **November 2024**: Potential Committee members reviewed during the Council meeting. Arranging calls to introduce potential members to the AIEC and the Council and Committee framework, and secure confirmation of Committee participation.

- **November 25, 2024**: Second Council meeting held. The agenda included a briefing by Robert Silvers, Under Secretary, Office of Policy, Department of Homeland Security (DHS) regarding AI safety and security, a review of Council and Committee framework, potential Committee members, 2024 activities, and projected 2025 activities and impact, key issues, and related topics.

- **December 9-11, 2024:** The AI Ethics Council 2024 Annual Report will be announced and publicly released at Operation HOPE's 2024 Annual Meeting of the HOPE Global Forums in Atlanta, GA.

PROGRESS AND IMPACT

1. **Council and Committee Framework.** AIEC initiative leaders created a Council and Committee framework, including administrative documentation, that (1) reflects the areas of focus the Council initially established for Committee development, (2) defines roles, responsibilities, and expectations for Committee members and AIEC initiative leadership, and (3) prescribes operational protocol including meetings, administrative matters, Council and Committee work product, and similar matters. The Council and Committees will initially seek to focus on the areas set forth below.

- **Council members:**
  - Guide and manage AIEC in pursuit of mission
  - Strategically participate in amplification of mission, activities, and impact
  - Engage AI sector and AI landscape on behalf of AIEC

- **Committees:**
  - Eight initial Committees designated by the Council and subject to change, including:
    1) Economic Opportunity
    2) Financial Services – Consumer Finance
    3) Policy, Regulation, Governance
    4) Employment Career Preparedness, Job Skills
    5) Education, AI Literacy, Educational opportunity
    6) Universal Accessibility
    7) Healthcare
    8) Climate Change, Environment, Sustainability
  - Identify key issues, developments, and best practices
  - Mission- and topic-focused work product, informed by Council feedback, to be presented publicly on a regular basis

- **AIEC Initiative Leaders:**
  - AIEC is powered and administered by Operation HOPE
  - Manage overall Council and Committee administration, communication, and strategy
  - Monitor and provide updates related to AI landscape and Council and Committee work Coordinate production and delivery of Committee work to Council
  - Fiscal management
  - Maintain administrative documents and records
  - Collaborate with other important entities in the AI landscape to further the mission

2. **AIEC Council Member and Initiative Leader engagement.** AIEC Council members and initiative leaders engaged in many AI-focused activities over the past year.

With respect to Co-Chairs Altman and Bryant, each has extensively focused on AI, including matters and topics directly involving the AIEC and its mission. Co-Chair Altman's primary focus is AI given his role as CEO of OpenAI. Co-Chair Bryant has extensively and intensively addressed AI, and the importance of the AIEC and its mission, through regular public appearances across traditional and social media channels. His engagement has included numerous television appearances on CNBC, keynote speaking engagements, podcast recordings, and social media messaging, all intended to draw attention to the importance of creating ethical and equitable standards as AI develops. In addition, Co-Chair Bryant also published various articles and op-eds on platforms like TIME in which he emphasized the importance of exploring AI's

potential while addressing ethical considerations and promoting inclusive growth. The AIEC Co-Chairs also regularly engage with government, technology, and community leaders across the nation regarding the imperative of the Council's work and the need for all stakeholders to ensure that AI develops ethically, fairly, and inclusively, so that no one – particularly underserved and historically excluded communities – gets left behind as AI evolves.

Other Council members' engagements include:

Ambassador Andrew Young - During the AIEC's inaugural meeting, Council Member Young emphasized the transformative potential of AI and the necessity of ethical standards to guide its development. He highlighted the importance of inclusivity and the need to prevent misuse of AI technologies. His involvement underscores a commitment to aligning AI advancements with ethical principles and social justice.

George French, President Clark Atlanta University:

- In July 2024, Clark Atlanta University, in collaboration with Georgia Tech's NSF AI Research Institute for Advances in Optimization (AI4OPT), secured a $2.79 million grant from the National Science Foundation to establish an AI Hub. This initiative aims to enhance AI education and research at historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs), addressing the underrepresentation of African Americans in the AI field. [AI Hub Planned for Clark Atlanta University with $2.79M NSF Grant in Collaboration with AI4OPT at Georgia Tech - Clark Atlanta University](#)
- In May 2023, French co-hosted events with Co-Chairs Altman and Bryant to discuss the future of AI in the Black community. These discussions focused on leveraging AI to create economic opportunities and address disparities in underserved communities.
- [AI Hub Planned for Clark Atlanta University with $2.79M NSF Grant in Collaboration with AI4OPT at Georgia Tech - Clark Atlanta University](#)

Helene Gayle, President Spelman College:

- In a State of the College address to Spelman College on May 14, 2024, Gayle discussed the impact of AI on academia, highlighting its potential to transform educational practices and the importance of preparing students for an AI-driven future.
- Spelman College has pursued initiatives to integrate AI into its academic programs. The college has established collaborations with institutions such as MIT's Media Lab, the Broad Institute, and the Army Research Lab to advance research and education in AI and machine learning.

Bernice King - In January 2024, King highlighted AI as one of the critical challenges facing humanity, alongside issues like gun violence and racism. She emphasized the urgent need to study and adopt her father's philosophy of nonviolence to navigate the ethical complexities introduced by AI and other modern threats. [Martin Luther King's daughter says wars, gun violence and racism have pushed humanity to the brink | AP News](#)

David A. Thomas, President Morehouse College - Morehouse College partnered with the Information Technology Industry Council to launch the Center for Broadening Participation in Computing (CBPC). This

center aims to diversify the global tech industry workforce by preparing underrepresented students for careers in technology, with a focus on AI and related fields.

Angela Williams President & CEO United Way - Addressed the role of AI in a June 2024 interview with *Forbes*, in which Williams discussed United Way's initiatives to integrate AI technologies to enhance community impact and operational efficiency. Williams emphasized the importance of leveraging AI to better understand community needs, optimize resource allocation, and improve service delivery, all while maintaining a strong commitment to ethical standards and data privacy. Inclusive Algorithms: Achieving racial justice in AI | One Young World - Community (panel)

Reid Hoffman, AI venture capitalist and co-founder of LinkedIn:

- In March 2022, Council Member Hoffman co-founded Inflection AI, a company dedicated to developing AI technologies that enhance human-computer interactions.
- In May 2023, Inflection AI launched "Pi," an AI chatbot designed to provide empathetic and supportive conversational experiences. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Inflection_AI
- In March 2023, Mr. Hoffman released "Impromptu: Amplifying Our Humanity Through AI," a book co-authored with GPT-4. The work explores how AI, particularly large language models like GPT-4, can elevate human capabilities across various domains, including education, business, and creativity. https://www.impromptubook.com/
- Hoffman has been a vocal advocate for responsible development and deployment of AI. He emphasizes the importance of ethical considerations and the potential of AI to augment human capabilities. In various interviews and articles, he discusses the transformative impact of AI on society and the economy. https://www.mckinsey.com/capabilities/mckinsey-digital/our-insights/gen-ai-a-cognitive-industrial-revolution
- Hoffman continues to play a pivotal role in shaping the AI landscape, focusing on ethical development and the integration of AI technologies to benefit humanity. https://youtu.be/agQWpYFKVmU

Van Jones, President Dream Corps and Founder Magic Labs Media:

- Jones has actively engaged in initiatives to promote artificial intelligence (AI) within underrepresented communities.
- Dream Machine Innovation Lab: Jones launched the initiative to equip Black and brown communities with AI tools and knowledge, aiming to foster innovation and economic opportunities. https://www.fastcompany.com/91176126/how-van-jones-plans-on-bringing-ai-innovation-to-underrepresented-communities
- "Make Wakanda Real" Campaign: In collaboration with will.i.am, Jones spearheaded this campaign to inspire young people from marginalized backgrounds to harness AI for problem-solving and community development. https://www.fastcompany.com/91176126/how-van-jones-plans-on-bringing-ai-innovation-to-underrepresented-communities

- In June 2024, Jones organized a free, one-day event in Atlanta, the Dream Machine AI Academy, to provide training on AI technologies to Black and brown students, professionals, and small business owners. https://thesource.com/2024/06/18/van-jones-dream-machine-ai-academy-in-atl-launches-juneteenth-weekend/
  - Jones has been vocal about the ethical implications of AI, emphasizing the need for inclusive development and addressing potential biases in AI systems. https://www.fastcompany.com/91176126/how-van-jones-plans-on-bringing-ai-innovation-to-underrepresented-communities
  - Jones is working to democratize access to AI and ensure its benefits are equitably distributed across all communities. Council Member Jones has expressed his perspective on AI in other forums, as well – for example: https://youtu.be/wFpBcoJSmOI

Eric Kaplan, Operation HOPE's AIEC Managing Director, has participated in panels and roundtables regarding the Council's work and mission. Notably, he presented at Algopreneurship's "AE Global Summit on Open Problems for AI" on December 5, 2024, in which he discussed AI, Ethics, and the crucial mission of the AIEC. AE Global Summit on Open Problems for AI

3. In December 2024, the AIEC announced the launch of the new AI (K-College) Literacy Pipeline to Prosperity Project, or **AILP3 during the Annual HOPE Global Forums**. AILP3 will create a K-college, Atlanta-centric development pipeline of young learners passionate about ideas, innovation, and creation, tied to a future of Artificial Intelligence – essentially, a farm-club system for the future of American aspiration, all from the underserved and historically excluded community. The objective is to create a replicable, best-in-class ecosystem – in Atlanta, home to Operation HOPE and many community leaders – for K-college AI innovation, jobs, and opportunities for the future, all within a context of promoting ethical AI usage through education and engagement.

The AILP3 will include:

- The HOPE Child Savings Account (powered by Operation HOPE and leveraging the success of this program in the Atlanta Public School System), and financial literacy education.
- K-12 AI literacy curriculum.
- K-12 volunteerism from the business sector.
- K-College student immersion around research, ideation, innovation, and App creation.
- An AILP3 Applications Lab.
- Programs to connect K-College education graduates with internships, mentoring, job training, apprenticeships and other career opportunities.

We are partnering in this endeavor with Atlanta Mayor Andre Dickens and the City of Atlanta, Atlanta Public Schools, Georgia State University (which graduates more Black minority students than any other university in the nation) and their prominent Business School and College of Education, Clark Atlanta University (and their Georgia Tech AI Compact), Morehouse College, the AI Academy and MasterCard], with more partners and collaborative efforts to come. The AILP3 launch at HOPE Global Forums included an onstage signing of a Memorandum of Understanding with Georgia State University.

4. **Committee Formation.** The AIEC has been focused since Q3 2024 on identification, outreach, and confirmation of Committee members. The members will come from diverse sectors – such as Industry, Community, Academia, Policy, and Regulation, among others – to ensure that wide-ranging, comprehensive, and differing perspectives combine in pursuit of the Council's mission within the designated focus areas.

   The Council will inform, and be informed by, the Committee's activities and its members' expertise. Each Committee's work product will differ based on the applicable focus areas, relevant topics, identified needs, Committee member makeup, and similar factors. For example, a committee may produce a white paper; host a symposium; generate a key issues list; establish and amplify best practices or standards for universal adoption; or any number of other activities. The mandate for Committee works from the Council is that such work is on point, relevant, impactful, and produced on a regular basis according to the nature of the subject matter and work product. For the AIEC to succeed in our mission, we must produce tangible results – and, for that, the Committees are key.

   As of the date of the 2024 Annual Meeting of the HOPE Global Forums, AIEC initiative leaders, Council members, and allies have identified and reached out to nearly 100 Committee candidates, with extremely positive interest and acceptance rates. We will announce Committee members and commence Committee meetings and work in Q1 2024.

LOOKING AHEAD TO 2025

The AI Ethics Council and Committees will turn on the engines and get to work on our all-important mission. Key parts of our strategic plan include the following:

1. Quarterly Council meetings, with summary reports of key items released publicly.
2. Quarterly reports on Committee work product, including updates and information regarding work product, activities, impacts, and progress.
3. The release of a "key issues" statement from, and as identified by, each activated Committee. Furthermore, we will explore the development of guidelines, best practices, and or standards, whether for AI generally or within each Committee focus area.
4. Continued expansion of Committee membership to ensure the inclusion of representatives from diverse sectors to ensure broad perspective and impact.
5. Periodic evaluation of Council member additions.
6. Periodic evaluation of Committee focus areas.
7. In-person and/or virtual convenings relating to the AIEC, including its mission, work product, and impact.
8. Buildout and focus on the AILP3 as a major program.
9. Extensive engagement with public and private sector leaders across the nation in support of the AIEC and our mission.
10. Strategic amplification of the AIEC's mission and achievements across traditional, social media and other engagement platforms, leveraging Council members' significant reach and influence.
11. Engagement in myriad venues by Council members, Committee members, and AIEC initiative leaders to enhance public awareness of the AIEC and our mission (including conferences, podcasts, press, etc.).

12. Maintenance of the AIEC website with important content and updates.
13. Collaboration and allyship with other important stakeholders to further the AIEC mission.
14. The production and public release of an Annual Report, currently anticipated in Q4 annually.

CONCLUSION

The Operation HOPE AI Ethics Council has created a solid foundation and infrastructure that will allow us to progress to the next stage in our mission: addressing the ethical challenges of AI and ensuring its benefits are accessible to all, particularly underserved and historically excluded communities. Through its diverse membership, strategic initiatives, and commitment to transparency, the Council is poised to play a pivotal role in shaping the future of ethical AI development. As AI continues to evolve, the Council's efforts will be crucial in fostering an inclusive and equitable AI-driven society.

We extend our deepest gratitude to all Council and Committee members, partners, supporters, and advocates who contributed to our success this past year. With continued collaboration and dedication, we are confident in our mission to make AI a force for good that respects human rights, equity, and the integrity of all communities.

For more information, please contact the Operation HOPE AI Ethics Council at rachael.doff@operationhopehq.org.