## **Making AI More Accessible**

Although we may not realize it, AI is a trending technology that is constantly being incorporated into many platforms and applications we use every day. With each year, more and more businesses look to AI to help them solve complex business challenges, sell products, and deliver better customer experiences. By creating easy-to-use AI solutions, implementing more AI into our daily lives, and educating ourselves on digital tech, there are many ways in which we are and can make AI more accessible.

## Al is getting easier to use/ Using it more

As AI makes its way into our personal and professional lives, it is becoming more of an everyday tool rather than a technology we don't understand. As users, we are becoming more native to AI because of how much we come across it in our day-to-day. Like Talla, Virtual assistants and chatbots are two examples of AI that consumers use on a daily basis. These forms of AI make our lives easier by learning from experiences, adapting to changing situations, and predicting outcomes. The more we recognize and use AI on a daily basis the more comfortable we will become using it over time. That is why the more accessible businesses make AI to us, the faster we will be able to learn and understand the new technology. Learning how to use AI won't happen overnight but by making it more accessible to more users we can adapt at a much faster rate.

## Ensuring it is accessible to everyone

Ensuring that AI is obtainable to everyone and not just large corporations is another way in which we can aid in making AI more accessible. Small businesses will have the most difficulty transitioning to an AI-dominated market because of high AI costs, limited data, and limited resources. This is why small communities and businesses should be working together to educate themselves on the importance of AI in their businesses, hosting informative talks on AI, and even implementing new training methods on AI into local colleges and universities. It's usually those that do not understand the potential value of AI, who are the ones most unlikely to pursue it. This is why encouraging local and small businesses to take the necessary steps to ensure a smooth transition into the new AI market is extremely important.

## **New Higher Education Programs for Training**

As tech jobs steadily increase, training and education in AI is becoming more common in the workforce. While some businesses are implementing re-skilling programs for their employees, others look to higher education to create new areas of study and training within AI. 64% of <u>Business leaders</u> recognize that the responsibility of training AI-literate workers is on them, saying that corporations alone should take the lead in closing the AI skill gap. Local governments and large corporations have already started to partner with local colleges and universities to develop AI certificate and apprenticeship programs targeted at local businesses' needs. AT&T is a great example of this, the company partnered with 32 colleges, universities,

and several online platforms to help employees acquire the skills needed for new digital roles. The company stated that as of early 2018, more than half of its employees had completed 2.7 million in online courses. It also reported that "retrained workers are <u>twice</u> as likely to obtain technology and operations management roles than untrained workers." By aligning these training and re-skilling programs to fit future business needs, we will be able to make AI even more accessible.

Accessible AI will navigate the future of our businesses and our workforce. By making AI more accessible to rural areas and small businesses, we can compile more data, giving us more leads and information for our own gain. Businesses are implementing and creating new training programs for employees to learn AI skills, creating a larger talent pool for future employers. The industry and higher education programs are also working together to prepare people for the future workforce. By taking the necessary steps and helping to make AI accessible, we will continue to utilize the new tech and let it take us into the future.