

CONVERGENCE SUMMIT

AI + QUANTUM IN CASCADIA

THEME: COHERENCE

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2026 | 9:00 AM - 5:30 PM PT

K&L GATES SEATTLE, WASHINGTON | #SEATTLEAIWEEK

Note: Each panel will include an open seat for the audience. Because the room is highly curated and very senior, attendees can step up at the right moment, introduce themselves with their name and company, and add their perspective to the discussion, on the record.

9:00 AM ● **Registration and Welcome Coffee****9:30 AM** ● **Welcome & Opening Remarks**

Arry Yu, Co-Founder and Executive Director, Convergence: Tech Policy Institute (C:TPI) | Xiaochen Zhang, CEO, AI 2030 | Rob Fiddick, Trade Commissioner, Canada | K&L Gates | Partners and Sponsors

9:45 AM ● **Opening Keynote: Coherence****OPENING
KEYNOTE**

Presented by Convergence: Tech Policy Institute (C:TPI)

Quantum and AI: Where We Actually Are, and Where We Will Be in Five Years

A practitioner's honest assessment of where quantum stands today and where it will meaningfully intersect with AI over the next five years.

Keynote Speaker: Orlagh Neary, Photonic

10:15 AM ● **The Collision Is Already Here****PANEL**

Presented by Convergence: Tech Policy Institute (C:TPI)

AI, Quantum, and the Governance Gap

AI and quantum are converging faster than the institutions meant to govern them. What is happening at the intersection, and what must the Northwest do before the window closes?

Moderator: Ned Rava, UN Joint SDG Fund

Speakers: Mengyu Liu, PhD, Washington State University | Donald Thompson, Microsoft | Erika Knierim, Founders Law and Amnion VC | Nirav Desai, Convergence: Tech Policy Institute

11:00 AM ● **The Cascadia Corridor****PANEL**

Presented by Challenge Seattle & Convergence: Tech Policy Institute

Building North America's Next Advanced Technology Superregion

Seattle and Vancouver are each world-class, but do not yet function as one region. What would it take to make Cascadia a unified advanced technology zone?

Introduction: Emily Fletcher, Challenge Seattle

Moderator: Jonathan Hale, Neil Hill Global Strategies, LLC

Speakers: Dr. Bethany Edmunds, Northeastern University and AI Network of BC | Michael Brett, Amazon Web Services | Shannon Braddock, Greater Seattle Partners | Tamaira Ross, Boeing

11:45 AM ● **Lunch**

Structured networking for delegates, technologists, investors, and researchers.

12:30 PM
LIGHTNING
KEYNOTE

Lightning Keynote: Tech for the Planet

Presented by AI2030 and Convergence: Tech Policy Institute (C:TPI)

AI for the Hard Problems: What the World Still Needs

Introduction: George Durham, MGT Consulting

What the Allen Institute Has Learned Building AI Solutions for The Planet Across 100+ Countries

Keynote Speaker: Chris Emura, Allen Institute for Artificial Intelligence

12:50 PM
PANEL

Your CEO Has an AI strategy. Does Your Infrastructure?

Presented by AI2030 and Convergence: Tech Policy Institute (C:TPI)

Why most enterprise AI deployments fail before they start, and how successful companies differ..

Moderator: Patrick O'Briant, Fall Line Partners

Speakers: Harpreet Singh, JPMorgan Chase and Ponte AI | Aaron Gustafson, Microsoft |

Xiaochen Zhang, AI 2030 | Mike Steep, Resect.AI

1:35 PM
PANEL

Who's Responsible in the Intelligence Age?

Presented by Convergence: Tech Policy Institute (C:TPI)

You are already liable for decisions your AI made. You just don't know it yet.

Enforcement actions, liability questions, and governance frameworks that actually work.

Moderator: Professor Onur Bakiner, Seattle University, Technology Ethics Initiative

Speakers: Yuki Ishizuka, Washington State Attorney General AI Taskforce | Cassandra Howell,

Public Health Solutions | Jonathan Barry, LawZero | Mike Steep, Resect.AI

2:10 PM

Coffee and Cross-Border Conversations

A chance to continue the discussion, meet the speakers, and make the connections.

2:30 PM
PANEL

Who Gets Left Behind When the Economy Rewires Itself?

Presented by AI2030 and Convergence: Tech Policy Institute (C:TPI)

AI, Quantum, and the Convergent Future of Work

A fireside-style conversation on which regions, workers, and institutions get to participate in the next economy, and what a region must deliberately build to stay ahead.

Moderator: Mary Nam, Governor-Appointed Regent, WSU; Emmy Award-Winning Journalist

Speakers: David Lara, AI 2030 | Jesse Canedo, City of Bellevue | Chris Emura, Allen Institute for Artificial Intelligence | Bleu Blakslee, Quantum Philanthropy Partners

3:15 PM
SHOWCASE

How Did a Canadian Province Beat Silicon Valley at Quantum and AI?

Presented by the Consulate General of Canada, Convergence Summit Anchor Partner

Demystifying BC's Quantum Ecosystem

Moderator: Dr. Bethany Edmunds, Northeastern University and AI Network of BC

Speakers: Orlagh Neary, Photonic | Kathryn Hayashi, Quantum Algorithm Institute |

Zheng Cui, IonQ | Carlyn Loncaric, AquaEye

4:00 PM
CLOSING
KEYNOTE

Closing Keynote: Convergence

Presented by Convergence: Tech Policy Institute (C:TPI)

AI, Emerging Technologies, and the Geopolitical Stakes of Getting Governance Wrong.

Keynote Speaker: Alvin Wang Graylin, Stanford HAI Fellow, University of Washington, Author

4:30 PM

Cascadia Reception

Presented by the Consulate General of Canada, Convergence Summit Anchor Partner

Closing reception connecting delegates, investors, cross-border prospects, and regional partners.

Remarks from the Consul General of Canada in Seattle, Craig Weichel.