



WNE Inauguration of Joseph C. Hartman

ACADEMIC *Symposium*

September 9, 2026 | Campus Center

As Western New England University celebrates the inauguration of a new president and looks ahead to a new chapter, our Academic Symposium highlights the innovations in scholarship and teaching, student engagement, and social impact that make WNE a place where possibilities take shape.

Through research lightning talks, interactive demonstrations, student research displays, and roundtable conversations, the program invites our campus community and guests to experience the many ways WNE faculty and students are imagining and building what comes next.

Time (tentative)	Session	Title	Format
1:00–2:00 p.m.	1A	Possibilities and Responsibilities in the Age of AI WNE faculty and staff are leading the way in AI fluency—learn about the expertise they’re sharing with national and regional audiences.	Lightning talks
1:00–2:00 p.m.	1B	Faculty Discovery in Motion: Scholarship Across Disciplines Discover the breadth of faculty inquiry at WNE with our contributions to health, technology, and social impact.	Lightning talks
2:00–3:00 p.m.	2A	Learning by Doing: Experiential Pathways to Possibility Faculty experts model strategies for moving students beyond the boundaries of traditional classrooms and reflect on lasting impacts for student learning.	Panel presentation
2:00–3:00 p.m.	2B	AI, Ethics, and the Future We Choose This session invites participants into a timely conversation about responsibility and the choices facing students, faculty, professionals, and institutions.	Debate / discussion
3:00–4:00 p.m.	3A	From Ideas to Innovation: Vibe Coding and Applied AI Participants are invited to bring their curiosity and problems to solve to a session with live applied AI experimentation.	Interactive demonstration
3:00–4:00 p.m.	3B	Belonging, Well-Being, and the Whole Student Experience Gather ideas and inspiration as panelists share classroom strategies that support student mindfulness, reflection, and growth.	Roundtable
Time TBD	4A	Student Research on Display: Curiosity, Inquiry, and Impact Celebrate the range of student research and inquiry at WNE and engage with student presenters from across our four colleges.	Poster session
Time TBD	4B	Possibility in Practice: Student Showcases, Clinics, and Campus Innovation Engage informally with campus experts and student groups showcasing academic approaches and experiences.	Demonstrations / café tables staffed by campus experts and student groups
Time TBD	4C	Creative and Civic Voices: Literature, Scholarship, and Free Inquiry Experience student creativity and participate in a banned books read out.	Gallery / display
3:30–4:30 p.m. (tentative)	5A	Tentative: Golden Bear Pathways: Alumni Perspectives on Technology, Work, and What Comes Next What students and faculty need to know about AI in today’s workplace.	Alumni panel
Throughout	6A	A Campus of Possibilities: Passive and Pop-Up Engagements Celebrate scholarly achievements and teaching excellence at WNE.	Self-guided / passive programs