

WHY CLOSING THE DIGITAL DIVIDE MATTERS

An Expert Interview with Jarod Groome '09 on AI, Education, and Opportunity

As we come to the close of 2025, we're reflecting on one of our greatest gifts: our alumni community. Our alumni remind us what works, what matters, and what our students need next.

That's why our Executive Director, Tamika Edwards, sat down with Legal Outreach alumnus, Jarod Groome (Class of 2009) - a Generative AI Consultant and Senior Account Executive and Advisor at Synthesia, an AI video creation platform. Jarod's journey and testimony are both inspiring and a powerful reminder of the urgency and importance of equipping our students to thrive in a technology-driven, AI-shaped world.

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Jarod Groome

Legal Outreach Class of 2009
Senior Advisor & Account Executive, Synthesia

Edwards: How did you transition to your current career?

Groome: In 2022, I participated in a program aimed at developing underrepresented talent pools. The program provided training, interview preparation, and mentorship for careers in tech. That support helped me leap from education to the tech sector.

Edwards: Do you think it is essential for students to learn about AI? Why or why not?

Groome: Absolutely. It's critical that students understand the implications of AI - the different sectors, types, and applications - as well as how to leverage it to increase their own productivity and build essential life skills.

Edwards: What are the most important skills students will need in an AI-driven world, and which of those are we currently under-teaching or overlooking?

Groome: In an AI-driven world, students will need superior research and fact-checking skills. It's not enough to type in prompts and carelessly

accept whatever AI produces; the technology is not foolproof. Students also still need to master the fundamentals of in-person communication - a skill undertaught in schools today, which is why the skills learned in College Bound remain so relevant. Finally, it would be beneficial for students to understand entrepreneurship and see it as a pathway to financial freedom and to changing the trajectory of their lives. The value of entrepreneurship is overlooked. There are so many opportunities to create, expand, and scale ideas into real businesses.

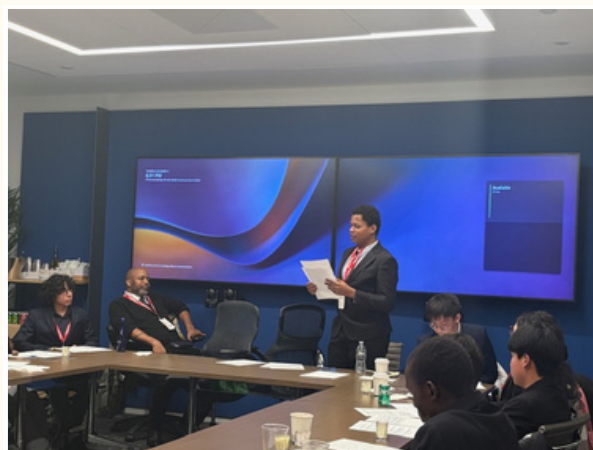
Edwards: From where you sit, what excites you most about AI's potential in education, and what worries you the most?

Groome: What excites me most is AI's potential to reduce teacher burnout by helping educators customize lessons, analyze data, score tests, adapt lesson plans, and communicate more effectively with families. AI localization tools will continue to break language barriers and improve knowledge delivery, so by nature, students can receive a fuller education. What worries me is that some students are already using AI as a replacement for critical thinking, deep research, and social-emotional development. That makes AI education and adult/educator guidance more important than ever.

Edwards: What would success look like if we get AI and education right, especially for students from communities that have been historically under-resourced?

Groome: Long term, success looks like students leading the design, development, and delivery of AI across industries. It means people from under-resourced communities benefitting financially from the industry and contributing intellectually to it. Short term, it means educators maintain an open mind and an aggressive curiosity toward emerging technologies, because the space will evolve faster than we've seen before. On a macro level, AI will affect work, the economy, and what young people can envision for their futures. I believe business literacy will be more critical than ever - even more than technological expertise. Young people will need to know how to leverage their skills in tandem with AI to create value in the future workforce.

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LO students at a Professional Exposure Workshop debating whether the use of AI should be banned in schools.

Jarod's insight affirms that AI education is no longer optional but essential to academic success and career readiness. We invite you to make a year-end gift by December 31st to ensure LO students are prepared to lead in the future that's already here.

**Support Legal Outreach today to provide vital AI literacy workshops for
high school students from under-resourced communities
in New York City.**

