

AI for Business & Manufacturing

Keynotes & Workshops · Sidney Shapiro, PhD

Practical AI implementation for leaders and boards: strategy, governance, and realistic expectations.

Artificial intelligence is reshaping how companies compete, but hype often drowns out what actually works. Leaders need clarity on where AI delivers value, how to govern it, and when human judgment must stay front and centre. This session translates research and real-world engagements into actionable insights for boards, executives, and conference audiences—so you can separate realistic use cases from misconceptions and align AI investment with strategy.

Key facts

- McKinsey estimates that AI could deliver \$13 trillion in global economic activity by 2030, with manufacturing and supply chain among the highest-impact areas—but most gains require human-AI collaboration, not replacement.
- Board-level AI literacy is increasingly a governance priority: directors are expected to ask the right questions about risk, ethics, and ROI rather than defer entirely to technical teams.
- Organizations that pilot AI with clear success criteria and governance from day one are more likely to scale successfully than those that chase technology first.

Who it's for

- Industry conferences and leadership events
- Board presentations and executive retreats
- Professional associations (e.g. consulting, manufacturing)

What you cover

- AI strategy and implementation — where to start, how to prioritize use cases, and common pitfalls to avoid.
- Artificial intelligence for manufacturing — predictive maintenance, quality control, and operational efficiency without overpromising.
- AI in supply chain and business operations — how AI is reshaping logistics, procurement, and decision-making.
- Responsible AI and governance — human oversight, ethics, and building trust with stakeholders.
- What AI can and can't do — realistic expectations so teams don't under-use or over-rely on AI.

Sample engagements

- Lethbridge Iron Works — board presentation on AI for business and manufacturing.
- Southern Alberta B2B Tradeshow & Conference — keynote on AI, tech, and innovation in supply chain.
- CMC Alberta / EY Calgary — keynote on Consulting in the Age of Disruption: How AI is Reshaping the Consulting Profession.

Formats

Keynote (45–60 min), workshop, half-day, board presentation.

Sidney Shapiro, PhD, is Assistant Professor of Business Analytics at the University of Lethbridge. He delivers keynotes and workshops on AI, data analytics, and digital transformation for conferences, boards, and industry.

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