



KC "Casey" Santosh is Director of the *Center of Excellence in Applied Computing*, Professor of *AI*, and Chair of the *Department of Computer Systems Engineering Technology* and the *Department of Applied Computing & Geomatics* (interim) at Oregon Institute of Technology. He previously served at the University of South Dakota (USD) as Professor of AI (2015–2026), Chair of Computer Science (2020–2026), Graduate Program Director (2017–2024), and Founding Director of the USD AI Research (2015–2026). Before USD, he spent more than four years as a research fellow at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and a postdoctoral researcher at the LORIA Research Center in France.

At USD, he grew the department from two to five degree programs (AI and Data Science), including PhD in Data Science & Engineering, and added six multidisciplinary certificates (e.g., geospatial informatics, bioinformatics, and data science for non-CS majors). He expanded the faculty from 4 to 15, increased enrollment from fewer than 60 to more than 600 students, grew the budget from \$0.5 million to \$2.2 million, secured a \$2 million endowment, and led the department's ABET accreditation efforts. AI enrollment rose 3,000% over the previous 50-year record (1970–2020), establishing USD as South Dakota's pioneer in AI education. He also led the AI+x initiative, spanning curriculum innovation, outreach (the IEEE USD AI Symposium, with more than 2,700 participants in 2024), and interdisciplinary collaboration, including the South Dakota Biomedical Computation Collaborative, supported by a \$6.5 million U.S. Department of Education award. His curriculum and shared-governance work spans physics, business analytics, psychology, biology, and biomedical engineering, and he has served as an ABET Program Evaluator since 2016/17.

He earned his PhD in Computer Science (Artificial Intelligence) from INRIA Nancy Grand Est (Université de Lorraine, formerly Institut National Polytechnique de Lorraine), France. He has secured more than \$10 million in funding from DOW, NSF, ED, and SDBOR; delivered more than 100 international keynotes, including a TEDx talk; and authored 13 books, including one on academic leadership, and more than 280 peer-reviewed articles in venues such as IEEE TPAMI. A Senior Member of both IEEE and ACM since 2018, he is an IEEE Signal Processing Society Distinguished Lecturer (since 2023) and an ACM Distinguished Speaker (since 2022, two terms). He serves as associate editor for IEEE Transactions on Artificial Intelligence, IEEE Transactions on Medical Imaging, and the International Journal of Machine Learning & Cybernetics, and has chaired the IEEE Conference on Artificial Intelligence, the IEEE Conference on Cognitive Machine Intelligence, and IEEE CBMS. He has also led review panels for national funding agencies across eight countries, including the U.S. National Science Foundation (NSF), Canada's NSERC and Mitacs, the Swiss NSF (SNSF), the UK Medical Research Council (MRC), Australia's Medical Research Future Fund, the Netherlands' ZonMw, and Sweden's Wallenberg AI, Autonomous Systems and Software Program (WASP-HS).

A trained academic leader, he completed CCAS Deans/Chairs 1.0 (2021) and 2.0 (2024) and USD's President's Executive Leadership Institute (2021/22). His honors include the Visionary Leadership Award (University of Derby, UK, 2023), the Cutler Award for Teaching and Research Excellence (USD, 2021), the President's Research Excellence Award (USD, 2019), and the Ignite Award (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2014). He has been a member of NIST's AI Standards and Innovation group (formerly the AI Safety Institute Consortium) since spring 2024 and, since December 2024, has spoken on AI and AI education through the U.S. Department of State's U.S. Speaker Program.

More information: www.kc-santosh.org