TAKEAWAYS: *AI IN THE WILD*

Dr. Gearl Loden, Superintendent, Nixa Public Schools
Patrick Murfee, SVP & CIO, CoxHealth
Scott Blevins, Co-founder, Taffy Tree

Bringing in healthcare, education, and software development, Dr. Gearl, Patrick, and Scott shared how artificial intelligence has affected their work. They challenged us to not just use tools because they exist, but to ask, "What is the best tool for this job?" They also emphasized that, especially in "people" industries like healthcare and education, a human must always be the beginning and end of every decision.

1. Define an existing problem and what success looks like in that situation before you pick a tool. Don't start with AI and go hunting for a problem.

2. Keep humans on care decisions and on relationships: a parent conference, a diagnosis, hiring and firing, encouraing employees, a worst-day conversation.

3. Put reclaimed hours by AI's efficiency into upskilling employees before you treat automation as layoffs

4. Name the problem first, start where a failure won't hurt people, and keep a human on the decision. AI is a force multiplier, not a replacement for judgment.

"I'm still doing the thinking. I'm still directing AI what to build and how to build it. I'm just doing it way faster than I ever have in my entire life."