In the current era of artificial intelligence (AI), businesses and higher education institutions (HEIs) are increasingly leveraging AI as an opportunity for growth. Managing the transitions brought about by AI requires a practical strategy focused on both human and technological aspects. The heart of such a strategy is a human-centric approach to AI that cultivates a culture of innovation and continuous learning. HEIs can empower their students with the necessary skills to use AI responsibly and ethically through hands-on classroom training, including real-world examples like practical prompt engineering created by one of the Big Four accounting firms and a separate project analyzing the power and limitations of generative AI for research and writing. Research suggests that leaders can drive growth and efficiency by embracing change and promoting a culture of constant learning and innovation. Transforming AI challenges into opportunities through pragmatic educational training for faculty and students is critical for HEI leaders to harness the power of AI. By incorporating real-world examples in targeted disciplines and conducting research projects, faculty and students are empowered to become confident and responsible users of AI, driving growth and efficiency within their professional arenas. AI has the potential to revolutionize higher education by enabling personalized learning experiences and augmenting faculty roles. It is crucial to ensure that the ethical considerations of AI are integrated into the learning process. HEIs need to develop robust AI governance policies and frameworks, including ethical concerns, to ensure that AI is utilized responsibly and beneficially.