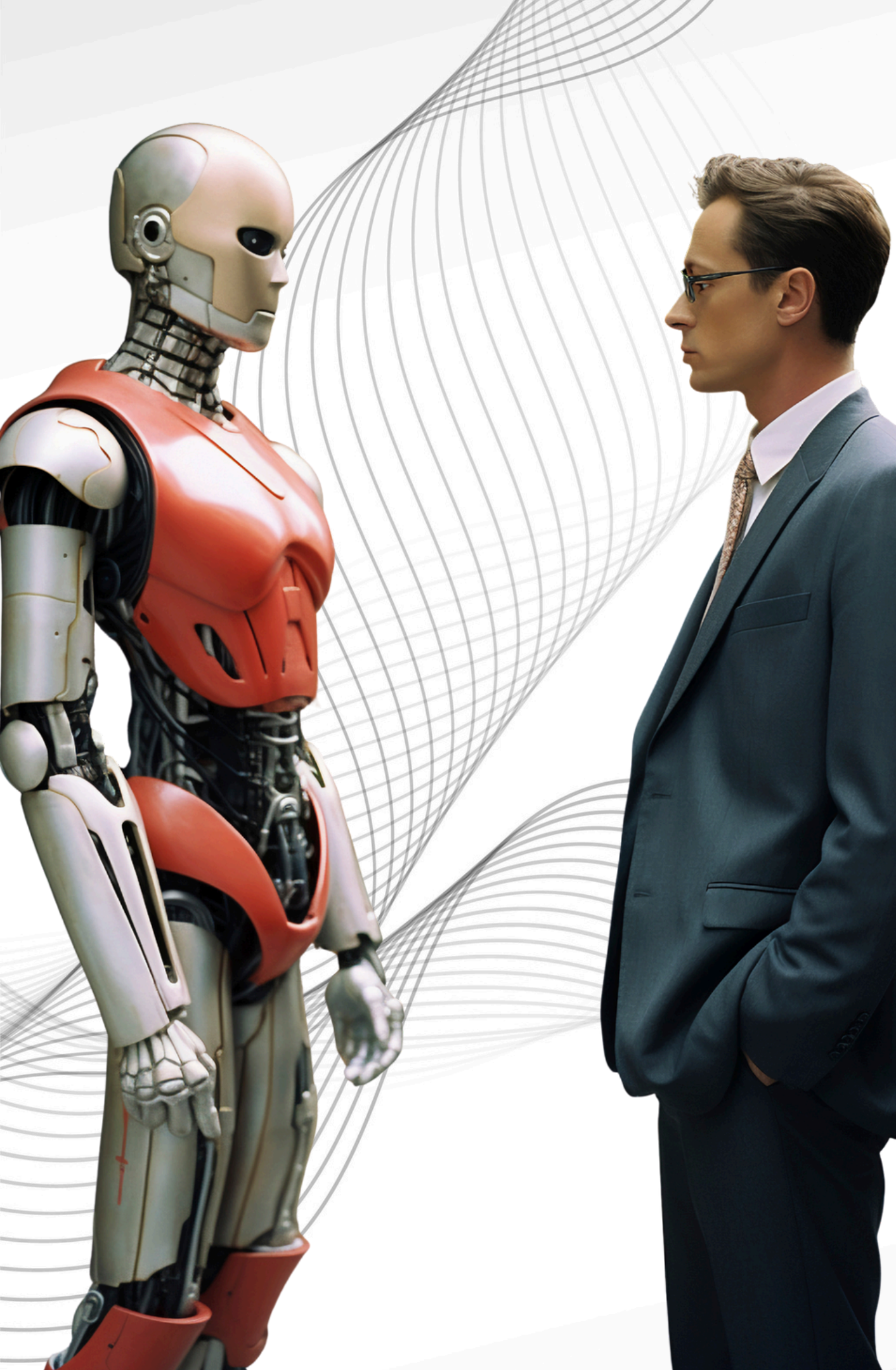




Empowering Jobseekers in the **Age of AI**

Practical Tools for Career Success in Illinois

Presenter: Laisha McDaniel

Laisha McDaniel is a workforce development consultant, career strategist, and founder of LLF-Consulting. She specializes in helping professionals, workforce organizations, and community programs strengthen career readiness, leadership development, and workforce engagement.

With experience in recruiting, professional development, and workforce training, Laisha works with organizations to design practical strategies that help individuals navigate today's evolving job market.

Her work focuses on equipping jobseekers with the skills, tools, and confidence needed to thrive in modern workplaces, while supporting workforce professionals in delivering impactful career development programs.

Laisha is passionate about bridging the gap between opportunity and access by providing practical, human-centered solutions that empower individuals to succeed in the future of work.



 **Laisha McDaniel**

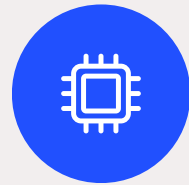
Workforce Development Consultant |
Career Strategist | Speaker

The Future of Work is **Changing**

Artificial intelligence is rapidly transforming how people search for jobs and how employers hire talent.



Why This Conversation Matters



Technology is reshaping hiring systems.



Digital literacy varies widely across communities.



Many jobseekers feel overwhelmed by AI tools.

Reflection Question

How prepared are the
jobseekers you support to
navigate AI-driven hiring
systems?

Webinar Overview

Topics Covered:

- 1 — Illinois workforce reality
- 2 — AI in hiring systems
- 3 — Practical AI tools for jobseekers
- 4 — Coaching strategies for workforce professionals
- 5 — Implementation ideas



Illinois Workforce Snapshot

Statistics



6.2 million

workers in
Illinois labor force



244,000

job openings
statewide



290,000

Illinois residents
actively seeking work

The Opportunity Gap

Jobs exist, but many jobseekers face barriers in accessing opportunities.

Barriers:

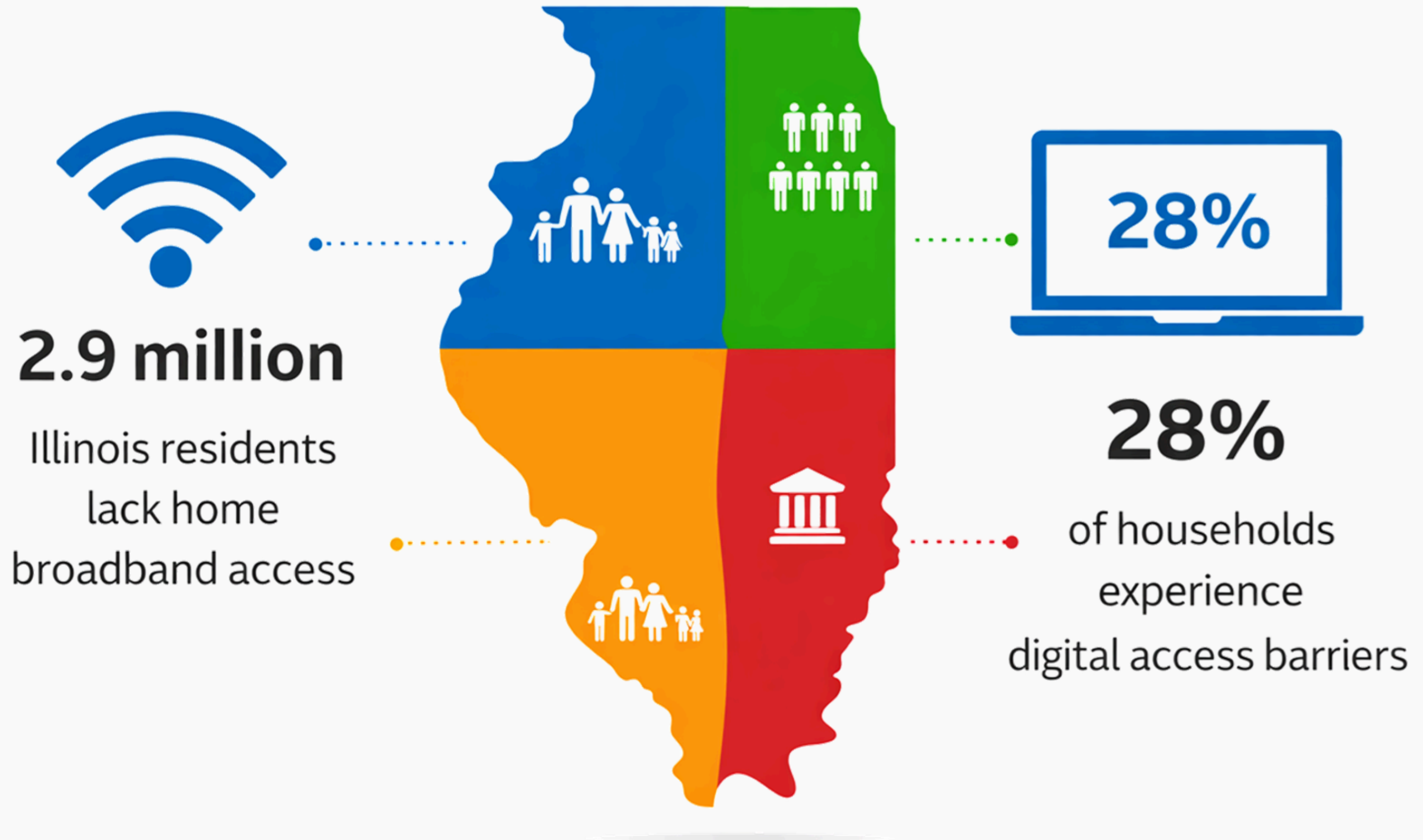
Technology access

Digital literacy

**Confidence using online
systems**

The Digital Divide

Statistics:



The Role of **Workforce Leaders**

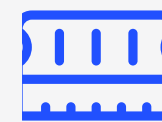
Workforce professionals help bridge gaps by providing:



Career guidance



Digital literacy support



Access to technology
resources

AI is **Reshaping** Hiring

Examples of AI use in recruitment:

Resume screening

Candidate ranking

Interview scheduling

Applicant tracking systems

The AI Hiring Funnel

Stages:



Job Search Then vs Now

Stages:

Traditional Job Search



- Submit resume
- Wait for recruiter response

VS

AI Driven Job Search



- Automated resume screening
- Keyword matching
- Algorithmic ranking

The Jobseeker Confidence Gap

Many jobseekers are unaware
that AI systems influence
hiring decisions.

The **AI Career** Empowerment Model



Reflection Question

What technology barriers do jobseekers in your community face?

AI as a Career **Support Tool**

AI can assist jobseekers with:



Examples of AI Tools



ChatGPT



LinkedIn AI tools



Grammarly AI



Google Gemini



Perplexity AI

Resume Support

Before Resume

- Update project status and maintain various project trackers.
- Organize team documents and maintain project files.
- Project improved alongs and contents
- Assist with scheduling project meetings and distributing agendas.
- Enter relevant project data into internal company databases.



After Resume

- **Project Scheduling & Tracking:** Develop complex project schedules and trackers, reducing project delays by 15%.
- **Resource Coordination:** Maximize resource utilization by organizing complex document structures for a team of 30+.
- **Process Optimization:** Automate meeting scheduling processes, resulting in a 20% improvement in workflow efficiency.
- **Data Analysis & Insight:** Leverage data entry systems to generate critical performance insights for senior leadership.

Rewrite my resume bullet points to highlight transferable skills for a project coordinator role.

- Interview Preparation

Example Prompt: Generate ten interview questions for an entry-level operations role.



Career Exploration



Career Exploration

Example Prompt:

What skills are required for logistics careers in Illinois?

Guidelines:



Verify AI generated content

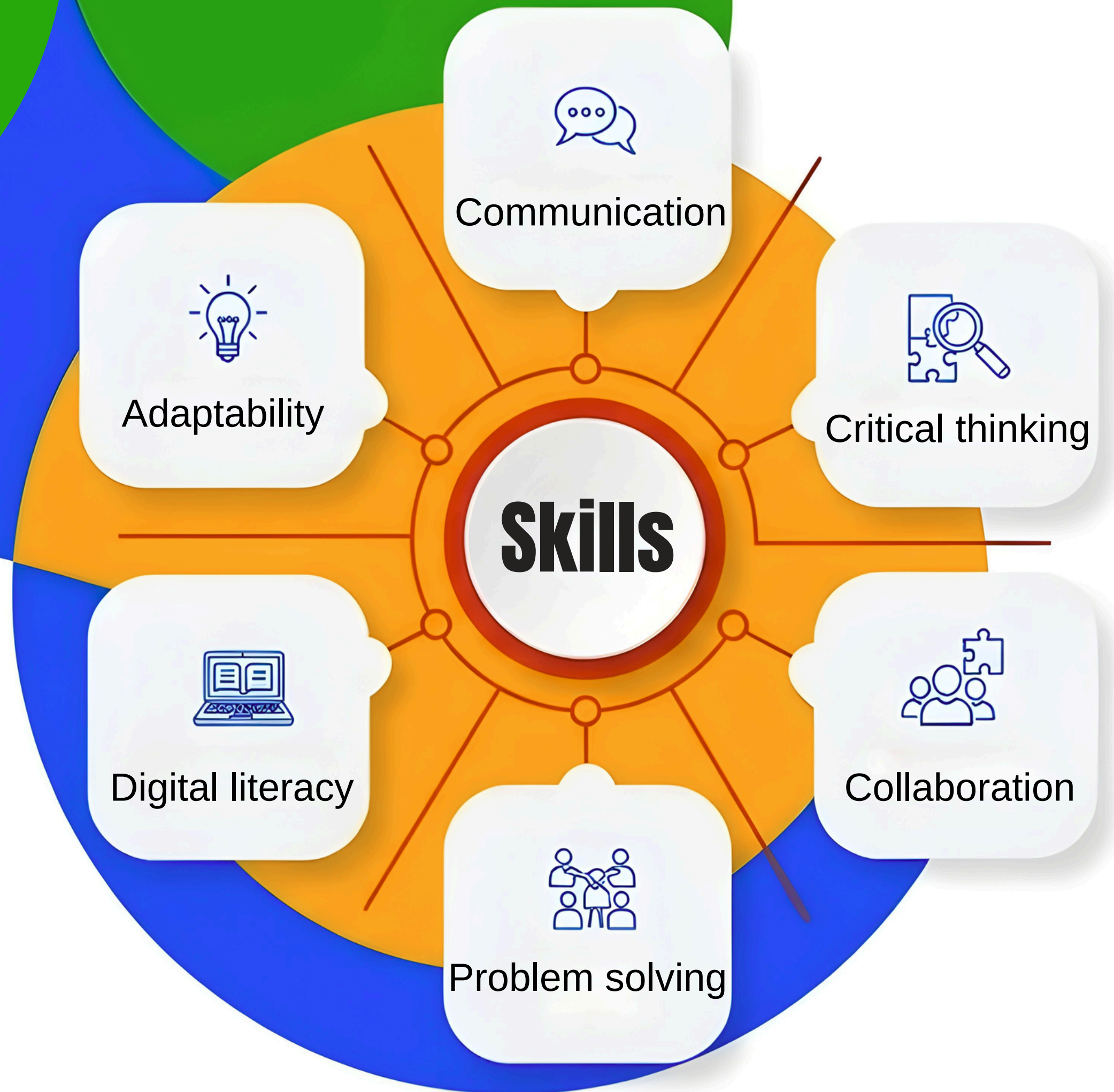


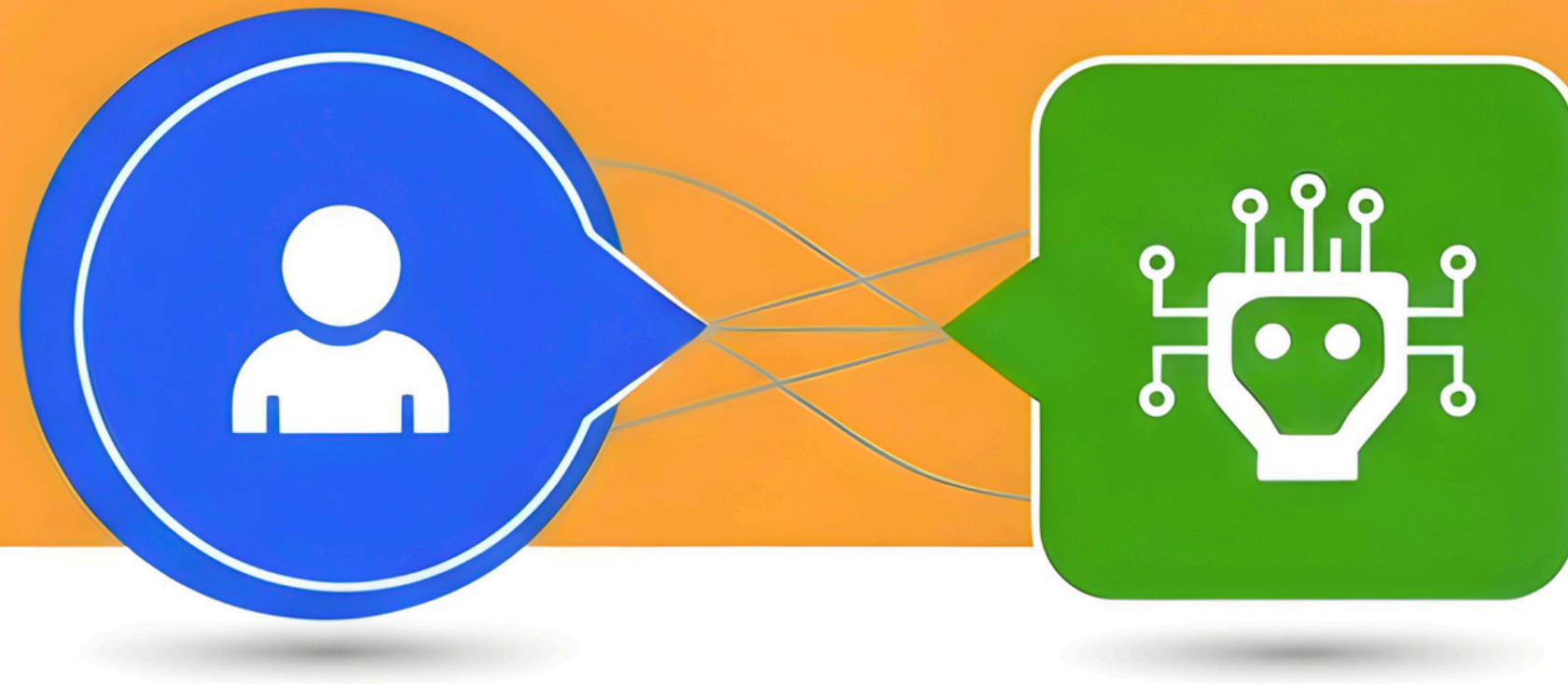
Maintain authentic voice



Use AI as a support tool

Skills for the **AI** Economy





**Technology changes tools,
but human connection and
judgment remain essential**

**Which skills are most
important for the
jobseekers you serve?**

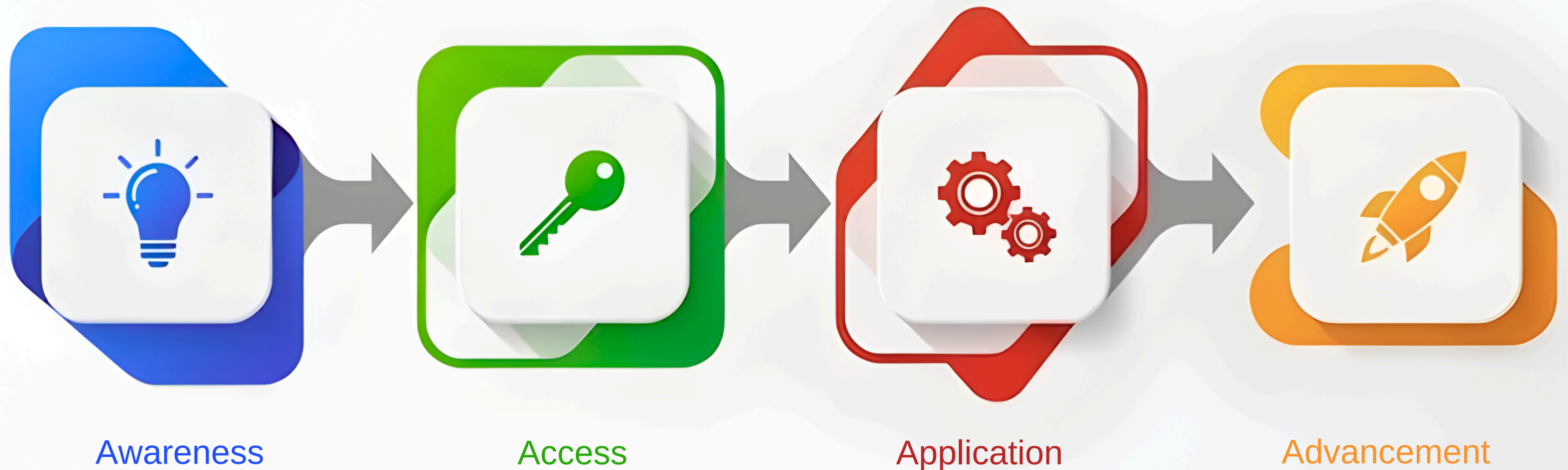
Innovation
collaboration



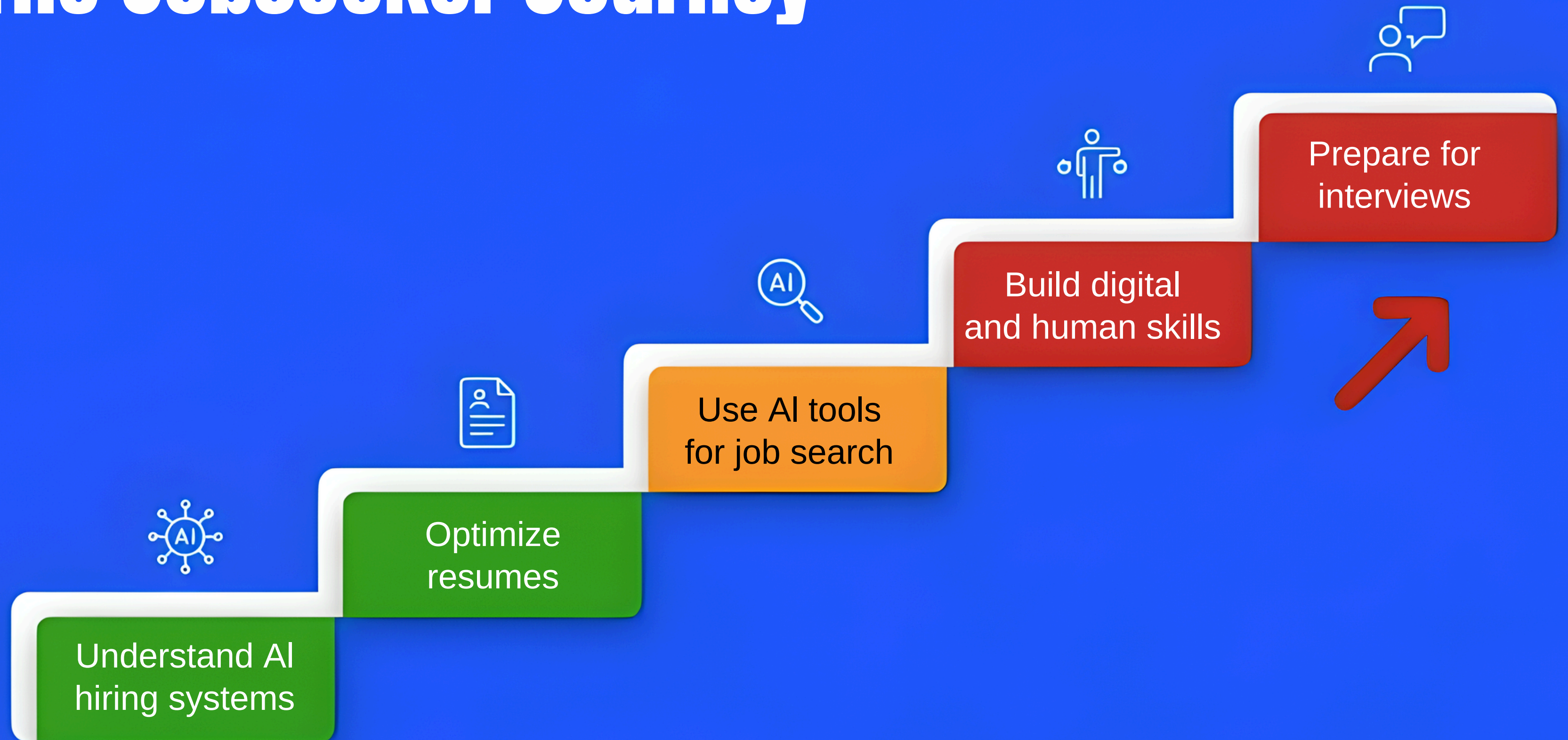


AI Empowerment Framework

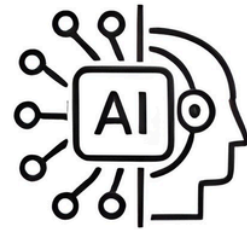
Coaching Model for Workforce Professionals



The Jobseeker Journey



Program Ideas for Workforce Centers



AI resume labs



Digital literacy
workshops

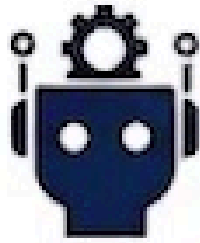


Interview simulation
sessions



AI career clinics

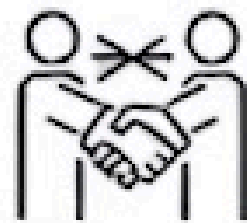
Key Takeaways



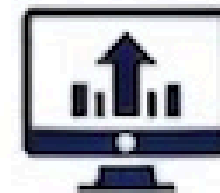
Ai is reshaping hiring



Jobseekers need
guidance



Workforce professionals
help bridge the gap



Technology can
expand opportunity

Final Reflection



STRATEGY

WHAT IS ONE STRATEGY YOU WILL
IMPLEMENT IN **THE NEXT 30 DAYS TO**
HELP JOBSEEKERS NAVIGATE AI?







LLF CONSULTING

Laisha McDaniel

Workforce Development Consultant |
Career Strategist | Speaker

Empowering People. Strengthening Careers.

Building Stronger Communities.

LET'S CONNECT

Collaborating today for a stronger
workforce tomorrow.



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Practical strategies. Innovative solutions.

Real impact for jobseekers and the organizations that serve them.