Executive Briefing Summary for Council – AI Training Program

City of Mesa – City Council Briefing Memo

To: Mayor and Members of the Mesa City Council
From: Collaborative effort involving the Department of Innovation and Technology, Mesa Public Libraries, and the Office of Innovation and Efficiency
Date: January 28, 2026
Subject: AI Training Program for Mesa Residents and City Employees through Mesa Public Library and iLearn Training Portal

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Purpose

To brief the City Council on a proposed citywide Artificial Intelligence (AI) training initiative that would provide online AI education to **Mesa residents through the Mesa Public Library** and to **City of Mesa employees through the existing iLearn training portal**, using a shared curriculum tailored to each audience.

Strategic Alignment

The proposed program directly supports Mesa's strategic goals and workforce initiatives by:

- **Workforce Development & Economic Vitality**
  Providing residents with access to in-demand AI skills that support job readiness, career advancement, and small business growth.

- **Organizational Excellence & Innovation**
  Equipping City employees with practical AI skills to improve productivity, data analysis, and service delivery while maintaining responsible use standards.

- **Digital Equity & Community Access**
  Leveraging Mesa Public Library as a trusted access point for emerging technology education, helping reduce barriers to digital skills training.

- **Fiscal Responsibility**
  Utilizing a single training program for two audiences and existing platforms (Library systems and iLearn) to maximize return on investment and scalability.

Program Overview

The initiative would offer self-paced, online AI training courses through:

- **Mesa Public Library** – Free access for residents using library credentials, available remotely or at library locations.

- **City iLearn Training Portal** – Role-appropriate AI training for City staff, aligned with public-sector use cases and governance standards.

Courses would include AI fundamentals, ethical and responsible use, productivity tools, and audience-specific applications.

Workforce & Community Benefits

- Enhances Mesa's competitiveness in a rapidly changing labor market

- Supports lifelong learning and upskilling for residents

- Improves internal efficiency and service outcomes for City operations

- Positions Mesa as a forward-thinking leader in responsible AI adoption

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Implementation Approach

- Publicly announced rollout utilizing media channels available to Mesa's Public Information Office

- Internal announcements to City Staff utilizing Inside Mesa and Department Director communication with their teams

- Integration with existing systems to minimize disruption (to be performed by DoIT)

- Ongoing evaluation through participation metrics and user feedback

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Next Steps

Staff is seeking Council direction on:

- Proceeding with program development and public/internal announcement promotions and desired timing