



Mississippi AI Innovation Hub Student Teams Develop AI Solution for Secretary of State's Office

Student-built proof of concept uses AI to support regulatory research, statutory review, and more efficient government service

Jackson, Mississippi – May 2026

The AI Innovation Hub serves to effectively, securely and ethically accelerate statewide AI adoption, modernize public services and strengthen Mississippi's talent pipeline through collaborative proof-of-concept developments. Designed to position the state as a leader in AI innovation and workforce readiness, the Hub brings together higher education institutions, state agencies, and industry partners to expand economic opportunity and equip students with cutting-edge AI skills to build real-world AI solutions for Mississippi stakeholders.

The Mississippi AI Innovation Hub has announced the completion of new student-developed proof of concepts in partnership with the Mississippi Secretary of State's Office and a student team from the University of Southern Mississippi as well as a student team from Mississippi State University. The project demonstrates how artificial intelligence can support state government by helping staff more efficiently review, research, and cross-reference statutory and regulatory materials.

The student teams developed AI-powered solutions designed to assist Secretary of State staff in accessing, analyzing, summarizing, and cross-referencing Mississippi statutes and regulations. The proof of concepts include natural language chatbots research assistants, and web crawler functionality focused on designated state agency regulatory materials. The solutions are intended to help staff locate relevant statutory references, identify relationships between statutes and regulations, and generate research summaries with verifiable source references.

“Through Mississippi's new AI Innovation Hub, I've seen firsthand how the program has challenged our state's future leaders to confront existing government issues with bold yet practical solutions,” said Mississippi Secretary of State Michael Watson. “By applying their skills and ideas for developing and harnessing Artificial Intelligence, we have an opportunity to make Mississippi's government more efficient, more responsive, and better focused on the people it serves.”

The proof of concepts were designed with transparency, accountability, and human oversight in mind. Responses are intended to be grounded in official legal and regulatory materials, with source references included to support verification. The tools are advisory in nature and are not intended to make binding legal interpretations, policy determinations, or regulatory approvals.

For the students involved, the project provided a meaningful opportunity to apply technical skills to a real government challenge. “Working on a solution for a real-world AI problem for the Mississippi Secretary of State, in collaboration with AWS, the MAIN, and the Mississippi Department of ITS, has been an honor,” said Swayamjit Saha, a MSU student participant in the Hub.

Swayamjit said the experience reinforced the importance of collaboration across sectors. “I learned that collaboration across industry and government is important to solving critical problems,” he said. “I also gained practical experience implementing AWS services, including AI tools, to solve a real-world problem that would otherwise be difficult to address.”

Another student participant from USM, Saleep Shrestha, said the project was both practical and meaningful. “Building the SoS project was a great hands-on experience,” Saleep said. “Having the right team and a great mentor is what turned it into a fun and meaningful project for the state of Mississippi.”

Swayamjit encouraged other students to take advantage of the opportunity. “The Hub gives students the flexibility to think creatively and propose their own solutions using available resources,” Swayamjit said. “It is a great opportunity for students who may not have previous hands-on experience solving real-world projects. I strongly recommend students join the Hub to learn new skills and gain practical experience.”

The Secretary of State proof of concept reflects the AI Innovation Hub’s mission to connect Mississippi students with meaningful public-sector challenges while helping state agencies explore responsible AI use. The project code will be published to the Hub website as open source so it can be studied, adapted, and built upon for future solutions.

For more information, visit: <https://www.its.ms.gov/services/innovating/AI-Innovation-Hub>.

Contact Information

Shelley Thompson

Emerging Technology Manager

Mississippi Department of Information Technology Services

shelley.thompson@its.ms.gov

601-432-8143