



LEARNERS LIVE



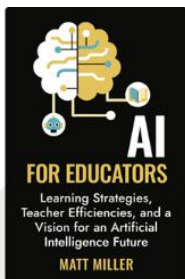
Expanded from Bill Attardi's EnergyWatch.com

May 2026

<http://attardimarketing.com/>

<http://learnerslive.com/>

<https://www.youtube.com/@BillAttardi>



The result may be students who not only know more but can do more with what they know.

The goal isn't replacing human intelligence but extending it.

It's one thing to know your own position; it's another to genuinely comprehend why people disagree.

Something to Think About... What I've learned by Bill Attardi

1. I have to start with what most say is the first commandment of success: *Get a good education / develop a skill in something you really love to do and work hard at it.*
It really is that simple.
2. Never worry about your next job.....work hard at the job you have and the promotions will come. This really is a sports lesson: when the best are playing in the playoff games, they just cannot worry about the next team they may play if they want to beat the team they are playing.
3. If you have a *manager* title, your primary responsibility is to develop the people who report to you.....don't just manage, teach.
4. Critical: develop both your oral and written communications skills at the highest level of your capability. No matter your job or position, your ability to communicate effectively will determine your relationships and your success in those relationships.
5. When you are asked to present / teach what you know and give to others, be sure to entertain as well as inform. In today's electronic information age, it's the only way they will listen.
6. If everyone agrees with you then you are doing all the thinking. Encourage others to debate the issues and make decisions based on divergent intelligent thoughts. Education happens when you learn from others.

Something you may not know!

7. Love your family and your friends and yes, even your enemies. Hate gets in the way of doing a good job as a parent, as a loyal friend, as a successful person.
8. Never stop learning. It should never be final. I'm learning something new every day, learning more and more as we go through life.
9. Make time to read for information and for pleasure too. It really helps to escape the pressures of everyday living.
10. Go to church or your chosen house of worship and give just one hour a week to God to thank him for your blessings. It may not have to be more than that. It can be that one hour when you can pray and meditate and feel a sense of calm that refreshes your thoughts and better prepares you for life's struggles.
11. Never retire! Why would you want to stop what you love to do and are good at it?

Did you know...

The Statue of Liberty was made with copper but due to oxidation, it turned green.

When the “Lady in the Harbor” first arrived in New York in 1886, she didn't look like the mint-green icon we know today. In fact, for the first twenty years of her life, she stood as a towering, metallic beacon of reddish-gold. Designed by French sculptor **Frédéric Auguste Bartholdi** and engineered by **Alexandre Gustave Eiffel**, the statue was a gift from France to America. To build her, Bartholdi chose copper for three practical reasons:

- **Malleability:** It could be hammered into elaborate, thin sheets.
- **Weight:** Copper is lighter than stone or bronze, making it easier to ship 350 individual pieces across the Atlantic.
- **Durability:** It was strong enough to survive a 27-day ocean voyage and the harsh winds of the harbor.

When she was unveiled on October 28, 1886, her skin—made of 300 copper sheets roughly the thickness of two pennies—shone with a **bright, metallic brown luster**. The transformation from “penny-colored” to “patina-green” wasn't planned. Bartholdi actually expected the statue to age into a deeper, darker red. However, the unique environment of New York Harbor—a mix of salt air, moisture, and industrial pollution—triggered a process called **oxidation**.



Something you may not know!

The Timeline of Change:

1. **1886–1900:** The bright copper dulled into a dark, muddy brown.
2. **1903:** The first hints of a light green crust, or “patina,” began to appear.
3. **1906:** The color change was so controversial that Congress nearly stepped in. They appropriated **\$62,000** to paint the statue back to its original color, but the public protested, calling the idea “sacrilege.”
4. **1910–1920:** The statue was a patchy mix of brown and green until 1920, when the oxidation was complete, leaving her entirely teal.

While we now view the green color as iconic, it actually serves a vital structural purpose. The layer of **verdigris** (the green patina) acts as a protective shield. It seals the copper underneath, preventing the metal from further corrosion and weathering. By the time the color fully changed, a new generation of immigrants had arrived in America seeing a green statue.

Market News

1. **2026 DLC Summit Registration is Now Open** - Registration is now open for the [DesignLights Consortium's](#) (DLC) two-day Summit in October. Taking place October 26 – 27, 2026 at The California Endowment in Los Angeles, “[Next Gen Lighting: Controls, Integration and the Environment](#)” will gather energy efficiency specialists, lighting and controls manufacturers and distributors, decarbonization advocates and other industry stakeholders to discuss the latest trends and technologies to maximize energy savings, enhance building operations and protect the environment through lighting. Co-hosted by the Los Angeles Department of Water & Power, the 2026 DLC Summit will feature panels and small group discussions. See the full meeting [agenda here](#). Interested participants can [register here](#). An Early Bird rate is available through August 1, 2026. Visit the [DLC website](#) for more information
2. **LEducation Changes 2027 Event Dates** - The LEducation Trade Show and Conference for 2027 has moved its dates from April 6 and 7 to April 13, 14, and 15. The event will still be held at the New York Hilton Midtown, but will expand from a two-day event to a three-day event. Light + Intelligent Building (previously known as Lightfair) is scheduled for Las Vegas March 16, 17, and 18 in 2027. Since many of the exhibitors and attendees want to be at both events, it can create some issues. LEducation will remain a yearly event in New York City, which Light + Intelligent Building is every other year, and will move to Philadelphia in 2029. [LEducation Changes 2027 Event Dates](#)
3. **Batteries on Wheels: How Your EV Could Also Power Your Home** - Vehicle-to-home technology is gaining traction, with over 630,000 bidirectional electric vehicles on US roads, allowing owners to use car batteries to power homes during outages and save on energy costs. General Motors plans to make all new EVs bidirectional by this year, and a UK trial found that 78% of V2H users saved at least approximately \$525 on their energy bills. [Batteries on wheels: How your EV could also power your home | Reuters](#)

Something you may not know!

4. ***Microsoft to Build Dedicated AI Factory Campus in Texas*** - Crusoe, the AI factory company, announced the development of a new, dedicated AI factory campus in Abilene, Texas. Supporting large scale AI workloads for Microsoft, the 900 MW site includes two new buildings and an onsite power plant to support grid resilience. The new campus is located adjacent to Crusoe's existing Abilene AI factory infrastructure, bringing the total projected capacity across the full Abilene site to 2.1 gigawatts (GW). Land clearing and site preparation for the new campus are already underway, with the first building expected to be energized in mid-2027, continuing Crusoe's record-setting pace that energized the first two buildings of the Abilene campus in under one year. The first eight buildings of Crusoe's existing data center campus in Abilene are expected to deliver up to 32% of the City of Abilene's and up to 25% of Taylor County's current FY 2025 Budgeted Property Tax Revenue. [Microsoft to Build Dedicated AI Factory Campus in Texas – electrified](#)

5. ***ABC: Construction Employment Rebounds by 26,000 in March*** - The construction industry added 26,000 jobs in March, according to an [Associated Builders and Contractors](#) analysis of data released today by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. On a year-over-year basis, industry employment has grown by 57,000 jobs, an increase of 0.7%. Nonresidential construction employment increased by 12,200 positions, with gains in all three subcategories. Nonresidential building added the most jobs, increasing by 4,500 positions. Nonresidential specialty trade and heavy and civil engineering added 3,900 and 3,800 jobs, respectively, in March. The construction unemployment rate was 6.7% in March. Unemployment across all industries dropped to 4.3%, but is still 0.1 percentage points higher than one year ago. [ABC: Construction Employment Rebounds by 26,000 in March – tEDmag](#)

6. ***ADP: Private Sector Employment, Pay Increased in March*** - Private sector employment increased by 62,000 jobs in March and pay was up 4.5 percent year-over-year according to the March [ADP National Employment Report®](#) produced by ADP Research in collaboration with the Stanford Digital Economy Lab ("Stanford Lab"). For additional information about the ADP National Employment Report, including historical files, employment and pay data, methodology, and a calendar of release dates, please visit <https://adpemploymentreport.com/>. [ADP: Private Sector Employment, Pay Increased in March](#)

7. ***Manufacturing PMI® at 52.7% - March 2026 ISM® Manufacturing PMI® Report*** - US manufacturing activity expanded for a third consecutive month in March, with the Institute for Supply Management's manufacturing PMI measuring 52.7, up slightly from 52.4 in February. New orders dropped from 55.8 to 53.5, while production rose 1.6 points to 55.1. Supplier deliveries increased 3.8 points to 58.9, and employment contracted 0.1 points to 48.7. [Institute for Supply Management](#)

8. ***Manufacturers Test AI-Translation Tech to Improve Worker Communications*** - To more effectively communicate with workers who speak little to no English, a growing number of U.S. manufacturers are leveraging translation technologies driven by artificial intelligence. They are also using real-time translation tools to improve safety and compliance with regulatory standards. Manufacturers employ roughly [3.1 million foreign-born workers](#), representing about 20% of the industry, according to 2024 U.S. Census Bureau data. [Manufacturers test AI-translation tech to improve worker communications | Manufacturing Dive](#)

Something you may not know!

9. ***Construction Jobs Increase in 38 States Year-Over-Year*** - Construction employment rose in 38 states from January 2025 to January 2026, while 40 states and the District of Columbia added jobs between December and January, according to an [analysis](#) of new federal data released by the [Associated General Contractors of America](#). Association officials called on policymakers in Washington to provide adequate support for training to enable workers to acquire in-demand skills and to allow qualified workers into the U.S when needed workers are not available. View January 2026 state employment [data](#) and [1-month, 12-month rankings](#). Association officials noted that the industry has a critical need for electricians and other workers with the skills to construct data centers and power projects. They urged the federal government to direct more funding to career and technical education and workforce training and to offer a pathway to employ needed workers from other countries. [Construction Jobs Increase in 38 States Year-Over-Year – tEDmag](#)
10. ***Energy Star’s Move to DOE Helps It Escape Proposed EPA Cuts*** - The Trump administration for the second year in a row is calling for elimination of the Office of Atmospheric Protection inside the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, but the Energy Star program, which has been part of the office for 30 years, is positioned to escape the cut; since November, the program [has been operating](#) out of EPA’s Office of Radiation and Indoor Air and, starting in June, will be [moved out of EPA entirely](#). Under an agreement EPA signed with the U.S. Department of Energy last month, DOE will take over administration of the program. The administration says the office isn’t needed and shutting it down will save the government \$100 million. [Energy Star’s move to DOE helps it escape proposed EPA cuts | Facilities Dive](#)
11. ***Washington Wire: Permitting, AI, ENERGY STAR, and MOU Activity*** - [NAED’s Government Relations](#) department is keeping our members updated about current happenings in D.C. The latest [Washington Wire](#) is here, recapping permitting legislation, the White House’s new National Policy Framework for Artificial Intelligence, a shift in leadership at ENERGY STAR®, and what NAED and its MoU partners are doing on Capitol Hill. **Get the latest updates on important events taking shape in Washington, D.C.** [Washington Wire: Permitting, AI, ENERGY STAR, and MOU Activity – tEDmag](#)
12. ***Utilities Plan to Spend \$1.4 Trillion Over Next Five Years to Power AI Boom by Jennifer Hiller*** - U.S. utilities are planning a historic investment spree to patch up an aging power grid and meet rising electricity demand for the artificial-intelligence boom. Capital spending plans for 51 investor-owned utilities have reached an estimated \$1.4 trillion for the next five years, according to a new report from PowerLines, a consumer education group. That is up more than 20% from a year ago, when the companies planned to spend about \$1.1 trillion over a five-year period. The record levels of capital investments are being driven by fresh demand on an aging electricity system that already needed upgrades. Unlike any prior customer, new AI data centers can consume the same amount of electricity as an entire city, with high demand around the clock. Beyond AI, many utilities are trying to keep up with growth in manufacturing, electric vehicles and residential markets, too. [Utilities Plan to Spend \\$1.4 Trillion Over Next Five Years to Power AI Boom - WSJ](#)

Something you may not know!

13. LEDucation 2026 Marks 20 Years of Growth, Community, and Industry Impact -



The LEDucation Trade Show and Conference, organized by the Designers Lighting Forum of New York (DLFNY), concluded another successful event at the New York Hilton Midtown on April 14–15, 2026. Now celebrating its 20th anniversary, LEDucation welcomed over 10,000 attendees and 565 exhibitors from around the globe, including a strong presence of new exhibitors, reinforcing its position as North America’s largest annual lighting industry gathering. Bringing together designers, manufacturers, educators, students, and industry professionals, LEDucation continues to serve as a vital platform for connection, discovery, and the exchange of ideas across the lighting community. Education remained a central pillar of LEDucation 2026, with a comprehensive program designed to address the evolving needs of the industry. LEDucation will return to the New York Hilton Midtown on April 13–15, 2027—expanding to a three-day format. For more information, visit www.leducation.org

14. NAED Washington Wire: Information and Updates on IEEPA Tariff Refunds - The Supreme Court’s February 2026 decision striking down broad IEEPA tariffs has triggered a complex refund process, now centered at the CIT and being implemented by the CBP. The main action items are straightforward. Importers should track liquidation dates, confirm ACH and ACE enrollment, preserve all entry and payment records, and review any contracts that may affect refund sharing. Wholesalers and distributors should check whether their pricing or surcharge provisions address tariff reimbursement. All parties should continue monitoring CBP’s rollout, the CIT’s next orders, and any appeal activity that could affect the scope or timing of refunds. For businesses, the key distinction is between legal entitlement and commercial recovery. Importers of record are positioned to receive refunds directly, provided they maintain proper documentation and system readiness. In contrast, wholesalers and distributors must rely on contract terms to determine whether they share in any recovered duties, making careful review of agreements essential. [NAED - Washington Wire](#)

15. Recent Trends in Horticultural Lighting by David Shiller - Recent horticultural lighting trends are centered on smarter LED systems, more precise spectral control, and tighter integration with greenhouse automation. The biggest shift is away from static lighting toward dynamic, data-driven lighting that can adjust intensity and spectrum in real time based on crop stage, natural sunlight, energy prices, and climate conditions. LEDs continue to replace older technologies like HPS because they deliver higher efficiency, lower radiant heat, dimming capability, and better spectral control. Industry and government sources also note meaningful electricity savings versus conventional horticultural lighting, which remains a major driver for adoption in commercial greenhouses and indoor farms. This efficiency story matters because energy is one of the largest operating costs in controlled environment agriculture. As a result, growers are looking for fixtures that do more than just provide photons; they want systems that can optimize output while reducing waste and heat load. More information is available [here](#). [Recent Trends In Horticultural Lighting | LightNOW](#)

Something you may not know!

- 16. Coming Soon: Facilities That Also Happen to be Farms** - What if your most important tenants were not people but, well, crops? The coming of a new “vertical farm” industry is



turning that unusual vision into reality. Vertical farms offer new, unique option for building owners looking for ‘tenants’. The multiple concerns with our global industrialized food system range from the existence of “food deserts” in which many people lack access to fresh, nutritious food to the increasing desire and market for food that is healthy, safe, high quality and free of harmful pesticides. The idea of bringing food

production closer to its consumers is manifesting itself in the development of a new sector experimenting with how to turn buildings into indoor farms. [Coming Soon: Facilities That Also Happen to be Farms - Facilities Management Insights](#)

- 17. Amazon Plans to Invest \$25 Billion in Mississippi Data Centers, Create 2,000 Jobs** - Two years ago, Amazon broke ground on its first data center campus in Madison County—the largest capital investment in Mississippi's history at the time. That milestone was followed by a [\\$3 billion planned investment in Warren County](#). Today, we're proud to share that our total statewide planned investment has reached \$25 billion, with plans to create 2,000 high-skilled jobs across all our Mississippi data center operations, further solidifying the state's position as a leader in technology and innovation. And the impact extends well beyond technology; our data centers are also creating lasting economic opportunity. In Madison County alone, more than 75 Mississippi companies are engaged in construction and operations, employing thousands of construction workers, electricians, and operational staff. [Amazon plans to invest \\$25 billion in Mississippi data centers, create 2,000 jobs](#)

- 18. DOE Explores Using Its Lands for Data Centers** - The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is helping ensure America leads the world in Artificial Intelligence (AI) while helping to lower energy costs by co-locating data centers and new energy infrastructure on DOE lands. To support this effort, DOE’s Office of Policy released a Request for Information (RFI) to inform possible use of DOE land for artificial intelligence (AI) infrastructure development to support growing demand for data centers. DOE has identified 16 potential sites uniquely positioned for rapid data center construction, including in-place energy infrastructure with the ability to fast-track permitting for new energy generation, such as nuclear.

View [the full PDF RFI](#). [DOE Explores Using Its Lands for Data Centers – electrified](#)

- 19. Blue Energy Raises \$380M to Build Grid-Scale Nuclear Reactors in Shipyards** – As the grid strains under the weight of electrification and AI data centers, [tech companies](#) and utilities have been evaluating whether nuclear power can help with the burden. [Blue Energy](#) wants to build nuclear reactors in shipyards because these locations can handle large amounts of steel and can be easily shipped to the project site once completed. Once the reactor and other parts are completed in the shipyard, the company plans to move them to the installation site via barge. Though that limits the total number of sites Blue Energy can address, the company can still use rivers to reach deep into the U.S., Europe, Africa, and Asia. [Blue Energy raises \\$380M to build grid-scale nuclear reactors in shipyards | TechCrunch](#)

Something you may not know!

20. *Tariff Q&A with NAED Director of Government Relations, Bud DeFlaviis* - tED magazine talks with NAED's Director of Government Relations, Bud DeFlaviis, about why distributors usually do not have a direct claim to IEEPA tariff refunds, why unwinding tariff-driven price increases is so difficult, and how distributors can explain that reality to customers.

tED Magazine: Bud, what is the biggest misunderstanding in the market right now about tariff refunds? **Bud DeFlaviis:** We hear a lot that since the IEEPA tariffs were struck down, everyone who absorbed higher prices will easily get money back. That's not how this works. The Supreme Court's February 20, 2026 ruling held that IEEPA did not authorize the broad reciprocal and drug-trafficking tariffs, and CBP (Customs and Border Protection) has launched its refund process using a tool called CAPE (Consolidated Administration and Processing of Entries). But that government refund process is built around the importer of record — the party that paid Customs — not every company farther down the supply chain that later paid higher prices. **tED Magazine:** So who actually has the legal claim to a refund? **Bud:** In most cases, the importer of record does. **tED Magazine:** Are the tariffs gone? Are they coming back? **Bud:** The IEEPA tariffs are gone. However, other tariffs imposed under the Trump administration remain in effect and the President has signaled that he wants to continue to find mechanisms to impose additional tariffs. [Tariff Q&A With NAED Director of Government Relations, Bud DeFlaviis – tEDmag](#)

21. *Utility Spending is Rising: A Review of Utility Capital Expenditure Plans* - Utility affordability remains a top issue for energy consumers across the U.S. as rising electricity demand and an aging grid coincide with increasing costs across the energy supply chain. In a comprehensive review of 51 investor-owned utility earnings calls in recent months, PowerLines found that investor-owned utilities proposed to spend at least **\$1.4 trillion** over the next five years through 2030 on capital expenditures (CapEx)—a more than 21 percent increase over the \$1.1 trillion over a five-year period outlined last year. Much of these CapEx costs could eventually be passed on to consumers, as utilities file rate increase requests that could result in higher utility bills. [Utility Spending is Rising: A Review of Utility Capital Expenditure Plans](#)

22. *Welcome to the NEMRA Lighting Division* - NEMRA Lighting Division is dedicated to empowering independent lighting representatives and their manufacturing partners. Membership in NEMRA Lighting Division connects you to a powerful network of professionals, programs, and resources powered by three core pillars: Advocacy, Education, and Networking. NEMRA Lighting champions the voice of independent lighting agencies and manufacturers, empowers members by building capabilities, and fosters connections for strong partnerships. Through Advocacy, Education, and Networking, your NEMRA Lighting Division membership equips you with professional development, relationships, and business strategies to give you a competitive advantage. [NEMRA Lighting Division](#)

Something you may not know!

e-Learning Showcase

Domino's Case Study – From almost going out of business to #1 in the pizza industry worldwide! Founded by Thomas Monahan in 1960 and initiating the turnaround in 2010 by Patrick Doyle, this is a case study about how important solving problems and making sound decisions are to a business and that these skills are the core of effective management.

<https://www.youtube.com/@BillAttardi>

Quality-Centric



Something you may not know!

Educational Resources

23. US Department of Labor Launches ‘Make America AI-Ready’ - The U.S. Department of Labor announced the launch of “Make America AI-Ready,” a free artificial intelligence literacy course that will help American workers learn the basics of AI simply by texting “READY” to 20202. The course is uniquely designed to deliver bite-sized learning content and daily challenges to users entirely over text message. Users can complete the course in seven days by engaging for just 10 minutes a day. The text message-based design is intended to be as accessible as possible to all Americans, including those without a laptop or with limited access to the internet. The content areas are:

- **Understand AI Principles:** Understanding AI’s core concepts, capabilities, and limitations, creating the foundation for effective use.
- **Explore AI Uses:** Directly exploring different AI tools and relevant use cases, and how AI can complement human expertise.
- **Direct AI Effectively:** Understanding how to provide the right context to AI and how to create clear prompts that produce effective outputs.
- **Evaluate AI Outputs:** Assessing AI-generated results for accuracy and relevance.
- **Use AI Responsibly:** Using AI in ethical and secure ways, protecting critical information, and ensuring accountability for outcomes.

Learn more about the Make America AI-Ready initiative at dol.gov/ai-ready.
[US Department of Labor Launches ‘Make America AI-Ready’ – electrified](#)

24. 2026 Lighting Resource Guide by Jim Lucy - Electrical Wholesaling's 2026 picks for where to go when you need to learn more about lighting, from A-Z. With all of the technological changes in lighting over the past few years, getting the latest available information on products and trends is critical. The associations, government resources, publications, websites and universities listed below are *EW*'s updated picks for the best lighting education, information on trends and new products, and networking / educational opportunities at lighting industry events. The 2026 Lighting Resource Guide also offers some insight into one the fastest-growing new resources in the lighting market -- [NEMRA's new Lighting Division](#). In just over a year it has already attracted more than 150 lighting reps and manufacturers. Congratulations to the [National Electrical Manufacturers Representatives Association \(NEMRA\)](#) for the foresight to develop this important resource. [2026 Lighting Resource Guide | Electrical Wholesaling](#)

25. NEMA Launches New Digital Storefront - The National Electrical Manufacturers Association ([NEMA](#)) announced the launch of the [NEMA Standards & Publications Store](#), a new NEMA-owned and operated digital storefront that serves as the authoritative source for NEMA technical standards and related publications. The launch represents a significant step forward in NEMA’s commitment to making its industry-leading standards more accessible to the product designers and engineers, manufacturers, electricians, procurement officers, and other end users who depend on them. The new store offers a more seamless experience for discovering, accessing, and purchasing NEMA’s full retail catalog – encompassing more than 800 standards, technical documents, and guidance materials – while also connecting users to other NEMA programs such as the [Make It American™](#) program and [NEMA Academy](#).
[NEMA Launches New Digital Storefront – tEDmag](#)

Something you may not know!

26. *Engineer Speed and Governance for AI-Era Delivery* - AI increases developer throughput, but without engineered platforms it amplifies risk. This Harvard Business Review Analytic Services whitepaper sponsored by Amazon Web Services (AWS) shows how leading companies combine faster CI/CD, predictive observability, AI-assisted testing, and supply-chain governance to reduce defects, cut lead time, and lower incident noise. Learn concrete practices and the KPIs that show ROI so your team can scale AI responsibly on AWS. .

Key takeaways of learning:

- **Strategies to implement the four pillars of modern software development.**
- **Paths to successful adoption of modern software practices.**
- **Ways to balance innovation with security and governance.**
- **Best practices for integrating AI into development processes.**

[Embracing modern software development practices in the AI era](#)

27. *Google Announces \$10M to the Manufacturing Institute to Develop AI Skills for the Manufacturing Workforce* - Google.org's funding will enable the Manufacturing Institute to develop two new courses for shop floor workers: **AI 101 for Manufacturing and Advanced AI for Manufacturing Technicians**. The \$10 million funding will support the MI in developing AI skills training programs for manufacturing workers and expand employer-led apprenticeship programs via the MI's Federation for Advanced Manufacturing Education (FAME USA). The initiative is part of Google.org's AI Opportunity Fund that helps Americans learn AI skills at no cost in collaboration with workforce development and education organizations across the country. The U.S. is facing a significant manufacturing skills gap. By 2033, it's projected that nearly 1.9 million manufacturing roles could go unfilled if the workforce is not equipped with the necessary technical skills. This builds on Google's previous commitment to support infrastructure and skilled trades. Google recently announced a similar effort with the electrical training ALLIANCE to train electrical workers throughout the country. [Google announces \\$10M to the Manufacturing Institute to develop AI skills for the manufacturing workforce - Modern Materials Handling](#)

Publications of Learning

28. *2026 Commercial Lighting Rebate Outlook by Craig DiLouie* -The commercial lighting rebate outlook is strong for 2026, with widely available rebates covering all popular categories of LED lighting and lighting controls, including networked lighting controls. Overall, 2026 marks a year of evolution for programs as they adapt to declining lighting energy savings due to LED market saturation. Average rebate amounts per LED product significantly increased, particularly for higher-energy-saving products. Some programs are shifting from incentivizing products to energy savings. More programs recognizing LED-to-LED upgrades were introduced. On the lighting controls side, average rebate dollars per installed solution generally increased in 2026. As AI infrastructure/data centers and meta projects continue to come online, rising demand for electric power is leading to cost increases. This article evaluates the 2026 commercial lighting rebate outlook based on data provided by BriteSwitch's RebatePro for Lighting North America database, examines opportunities for LED lighting and lighting controls, and offers insights into how rebate programs are evolving as LED adoption increases. [2026 Commercial Lighting Rebate Outlook](#)

Something you may not know!

29. *Design Research Looks at How Lighting Affects Mood by Jim Romeo* - A [2026 study published](#) in The Journal of the Illuminating Engineering Society is adding a new layer to the conversation about lighting design—one that electrical contractors and electricians working in commercial environments may want to pay close attention to. The research explored whether [lighting conditions influence](#) people’s self-reported mood, perception and [health symptoms](#). Twenty-eight participants took part in the study, working in pairs inside a controlled room under two different diffused-light conditions: variable daylight and static artificial lighting. The test environment was designed to remove visual cues such as windows or outdoor views. Participants could not tell whether the light they were experiencing was coming from daylight or an electric system. Both lighting conditions met current circadian-oriented lighting guidance and delivered strong daytime illumination levels. The results revealed a clear difference at: [Design Research Looks at How Lighting Affects Mood - Electrical Contractor Magazine](#)

30. *The Rise of Supply Chains That Adapt by Professor Jeannette Song* – Professor Song explains how AI is turning supply chains from rigid workflows into adaptive, decision-making systems. When you click “buy now” on online stores, recommendations appear, warehouses spring into action, and packages begin their journey to your door. Behind that seamless experience is a fundamental transformation. Supply chains, once governed by fixed rules and human planning, are becoming AI-driven systems that learn, adapt, and increasingly act on their own. In her book chapter, Reshaping Supply Chains Through AI-Empowered Automation, Jeannette Song, the R.David Thomas Professor at Duke University’s Fuqua School of Business argues that AI is fundamentally changing how supply chains work. “AI is reshaping supply chains in four connected ways: expanding automation across the chain, changing how humans and machines work together,” she said, “raising new questions about privacy and accountability, and pointing toward a future of more autonomous, agentic systems.” [The Rise of Supply Chains That Adapt](#)

31. *LEDs Gain Ground in Controlled Environment Agriculture Space by Tim Kridel* - Key Takeaways

- LED lighting has shifted from niche to mainstream in controlled environment agriculture, driven by improved spectrum, output, and cost reductions.
- Energy efficiency of LEDs allows growers to achieve higher light levels with less power, enabling cost savings and increased crop productivity, especially in high-value sectors like cannabis.
- Dynamic spectrum control enhances crop quality and yield by allowing growers to customize light recipes for different growth stages, improving nutritional density and shelf life.
- Utility rebates and incentives significantly offset the higher upfront costs of LEDs, making them a financially attractive option for growers investing in long-term infrastructure.
- LEDs' lower heat output impacts HVAC and humidity management, creating new opportunities for electrical contractors to optimize greenhouse climate control systems. [LEDs Gain Ground in Controlled Environment Agriculture Space | EC&M](#)

Something you may not know!

New Technologies

32. *New Hazardous Location Luminaires Built for Extreme*

Environments by LEDVANCE -Choose LEDVANCE and cut energy use up to 90 % while slashing SKU counts with field-selectable wattage, CCT and optics. Every fixture is backed by rigorous testing, North-American service teams and more than a century of lighting expertise. Certified LEDVANCE hazardous location LED luminaires are engineered to deliver uncompromised safety, durability, and performance where failure isn't an option. When you can't compromise safety or performance, LEDVANCE hazardous location fixtures deliver dependable illumination backed by industry-leading engineering and approvals and an affordable price point. [LEDVANCE Hazardous Location Lighting](#)



33. *Beyond Sound: How Semiconductor Innovation Is Transforming Audio Experiences* –

Audio is enriching lives, making listening experiences more immersive. Semiconductors are making premium recording equipment and high-quality entertainment production accessible to more people. But it's also quietly improving your life, enabling more affordable and higher-performing electronics. Audio appeals to our emotions by immersing us in sound, but it also keeps the things we're emotional about safe. For example, audio technology is an important aspect of maintaining the safe operation of humanoid robots. If a smoke alarm goes off while a robot is monitoring its environment, a semiconductor with a neural network-based algorithm can hear the smoke alarm and enable the humanoid to take appropriate action, such as alerting emergency services, protecting items with sentimental or monetary value or preventing incidents with pets. [Beyond sound: How semiconductor innovation is transforming audio experiences | TI.com](#)



34. *How Simulations and Digital Twins Are Advancing Robotics* -

Agentic AI showed us the capabilities of autonomous AI systems in workflows. Now, physical AI is poised to show us the capabilities of autonomous systems in the physical world, but not without help, as noted in various sessions at Nvidia GTC 2026. [Physical AI](#) is an embodied system that uses sensors to process and understand its surroundings. Consider tools like autonomous vehicles that use sensors to process a host of environmental data to ensure safe transportation. Or medical robotics, which provides healthcare workers with a degree of precision they never had before. Physical AI and robotics stand to revolutionize and automate entire industries, but as emerging technologies, they're still in their infancy. These tools still need to learn to navigate the world around them without risking harm to humans or organizational failure. Simulations and [digital twins](#) could provide an environment to test and refine robots before implementation. [How simulations and digital twins are advancing robotics | TechTarget](#)



Something you may not know!

- 35. Amerlux Mini Cavaletto Family** -The Mini Cavaletto LED is a compact, recessed adjustable wall wash luminaire for commercial and retail environments. The unique optical



design allows for 2:1 fixture to wall spacing while providing uniform light on the vertical plane. The Mini Cavaletto LED is a compact, recessed adjustable wall wash luminaire for commercial and retail environments. The unique optical design allows for 2:1 fixture to wall spacing while providing uniform light on the vertical plane. The high-performance optical head with various wattage options can be flush with the ceiling line to provide general illumination or pulled down (up to a 45-degree tilt) for wall washing or menu board lighting.

Spaced up to 8' on center, the Mini Cavaletto LED produces an even gradient of light for any vertical surface. [Mini Cavaletto Family - Amerlux - Commercial Interior Lighting Products](#)

- 36. LiteTrace Introduces Bluetooth Wall Switch with Integrated Occupancy Sensor and Dimming** -The Keilton+autani IWS102/DWS102 by LiteTrace Brands transforms standard wall switches into intelligent control hubs that manage both hardwired lighting and



networked devices based on occupancy, without requiring ceiling-mounted sensors or fixture modifications. Unlike typical occupancy sensors that only control their hardwired load, the IWS102/DWS102 offers dual control architecture: hardwired occupancy-based switching for connected lighting plus wireless Bluetooth control of

additional networked loads. The integrated 4-button interface provides manual dimming and On/Off control while occupancy functions operate independently. A single wall-mounted sensor orchestrates lighting and equipment control across an entire room through the Keilton+autani Bluetooth network, including plug load controllers (WF20R) for appliances and equipment. Ideal for conference rooms, private offices, lunch rooms, storage areas, copy rooms, and restrooms where coordinated lighting and equipment control maximizes energy savings. [SPEC-IWS102.B1.pdf](#) [SPEC-DWS102.pdf](#)

- 37. Electrical Wholesaling's Top 5 Lighting Picks for April 2026** - Congratulations to the product development and marketing teams from:

1. Alloy LED - Fully Recessed Cove Lighting
[Alloy LED](#)
2. Keystone Technologies- Type C LED Tubes with Bi-Level Dimming
[Keystone Technologies](#)
3. Barron Lighting Group - Designed for Safety, Durability, and Compliance
[Barron Lighting Group](#)
4. Certolux/Leviton - 3D Backlit Graphic Luminaires for Ceilings
[Certolux / Leviton](#)
5. LEDVANCE - LED Lighting for Extreme Environments [LEDVANCE](#)

Something you may not know!

LearnersLive Special Feature

BriteSwitch - Commercial Lighting Controls: A Growing Rebate Opportunity - For years, commercial lighting rebates followed a simple formula: upgrade to LED, reduce energy use, and collect an incentive. That formula still works. But it's no longer the full story. As parts of the country reach LED saturation, utilities are finding it harder to meet energy reduction targets. Much of the easy, one-for-one retrofit work has already been completed. While opportunities still exist, many programs are betting that the next wave of energy savings will come from going beyond the fixture itself.

Today, when many people hear "lighting controls," they immediately think of advanced networked systems that are becoming popular. But it's important to remember that traditional controls still can provide increased energy savings. Common examples include occupancy sensors, vacancy sensors, photocells, daylight-responsive controls, time clocks and bi-level controls. These technologies can deliver meaningful savings in the right applications. A warehouse may benefit from occupancy-based aisle controls. An office may pair LED fixtures with room sensors and daylight dimming. A parking garage may rely on scheduling and occupancy response. These are practical, proven upgrades that improve performance at a relatively low additional cost and without requiring a fully networked system.

Traditional controls fit well within prescriptive rebate programs because they are relatively easy to define, verify, and explain. For decades, programs have offered incentives for adding components such as fixture-mounted occupancy sensors, and these incentives are not going away. In fact, incentives for traditional lighting controls increased by 12–20% this year, depending on the measure. In addition to traditional controls, more advanced lighting control systems have gained prominence in recent years. These systems are typically more intelligent, allowing devices to communicate and respond dynamically to changing conditions. Rebates for advanced systems like NLC and LLC have historically been more complex. While most programs provide incentives for these systems, the structure varies widely. Some offer incentives through custom programs based on projected kWh savings. Others provide per-fixture adders or separate line items based on control type. [RebatePro for Lighting by BriteSwitch](#) is designed to help contractors and distributors identify the best rebate opportunities, estimate incentives for specific projects, and stay current as programs continue to evolve across the US and Canada. [Commercial Lighting Controls: A Growing Rebate Opportunity](#)



Something you may not know!