



**A FOUNDER OF HUMAN-CENTERED AI
PRESENTS THE BOSTON DECLARATION**

**Professor Ben Shneiderman Introduces the Boston
Declaration
in his 161st NOTE on Human-Centered AI**

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Fifty stars for fifty pioneers — the flag of America 250: AI Pioneers, honored alongside the Boston Declaration on July 4, 2026.

On July 17, 2026, the Boston Declaration on the Primacy of the Human Person in the Age of Artificial Intelligence entered one of the world's most influential intellectual communities on Artificial Intelligence when Professor Ben Shneiderman devoted the 161st edition of his widely respected NOTE on Human-Centered AI to presenting its principles to the global Human-Centered AI community that has grown around his long-running series.

Professor Shneiderman is Distinguished University Professor Emeritus of Computer Science at the University of Maryland and the founding director of its Human-Computer Interaction Laboratory. A member of the National Academy of Engineering, he has profoundly shaped how humanity works with computers — from the principles of direct manipulation and the highlighted selectable link to the treemap and the classic textbook *Designing the User Interface*. His book *Human-Centered AI* (Oxford, 2022) became a defining charter for the field, advocating technology that amplifies, augments, empowers, and enhances human performance while always keeping humans in control. When the founder of that tradition examines a new declaration on the future of AI, the global Human-Centered AI community listens.

Professor Shneiderman's assessment of the Boston Declaration — proclaimed by the Boston Global Forum on July 4, 2026, the 250th anniversary of American independence, under the leadership of Governor Michael Dukakis, Nguyen Anh Tuan, and Professor Thomas Patterson — was both thoughtful and encouraging. He described the Declaration as “well-aligned with

human-centered thinking” and introduced his readers to its Ten Principles of Human Primacy: the inviolable dignity of the human person; moral judgment as a uniquely human capacity that can never be delegated to a machine; meaningful human authority over advanced AI systems — the right to understand, to refuse, and to intervene; creativity as the engine of civilization, sustained by compassion, empathy, and care; and human responsibility that “cannot be transferred to an algorithm.”

With the candor of a distinguished scholar, Professor Shneiderman also expressed one preference — for the word “tool” where the Declaration uses “partner.” The Boston Global Forum welcomes this observation as the beginning of a thoughtful dialogue between two complementary traditions: the Human-Centered AI movement’s enduring emphasis on meaningful human control, and the Boston Declaration’s broader vision of technology in service of human flourishing.

Most significantly, Professor Shneiderman concluded with a call to action:

“Each of you can help by spreading news about the Boston Declaration in your communities.”

He also placed the Boston Declaration alongside the Cannes Declaration on the Sovereignty of Mind of February 12, 2026, recognizing the emergence of a growing family of international documents dedicated to protecting human cognitive autonomy and human dignity in the Age of Artificial Intelligence.

Professor Shneiderman’s decision to introduce the Boston Declaration to the global Human-Centered AI community marks an important milestone in the Declaration’s international journey. It opens a meaningful dialogue between one of the world’s most influential traditions of Human-Centered AI and a broader effort to build the constitutional, institutional, and trust foundations for Humanity in the Age of Artificial Intelligence.

The Boston Global Forum and AIWS express their deep gratitude to Professor Shneiderman. That the founder of the Human-Centered AI tradition has presented the Boston Declaration to the very community he helped build — and invited that community to carry its message forward — is among the Declaration’s most significant early milestones.

This is how foundational ideas travel: from one trusted community to another, inspiring dialogue, strengthening partnerships, and ultimately shaping the future of humanity.

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