January 2026

# bdpatoday®




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CTA's CES 2026 drew 148,000 + attendees and 4,100+ exhibitors as Ai moved into robots, cars and homes.

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NVIDIA's Vera Rubin, Intel's first 18A chips and AMD's Ryzen Ai 400 power January's Ai launches.

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Deepfakes, chatbot age checks, Ai chips and data centers: the tech bills Congress moved in January 2026.

# #TheBDPAStory

A new business-technology paradigm shift was underway, shaking up the work place and forever changing how corporations large and small would operate. Corporate computer usage skyrocketed, demand for computer programmers, analysts, operators, and managers also skyrocketed. Inspired by these emerging societal opportunities in the mid 1970's, Earl A. Pace, Jr. and David Wimberly launched BDPA — Black Data Processing Associates — expanding new opportunities for African Americans to upskill far beyond data-entry positions. And this journey begins.










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For 40 years, BDPA has enabled the upward mobility of African Americans and other minorities in the Information Technology (IT) and STEM fields. Through its 40+ local community chapters in major cities across the United States, BDPA has been at the forefront of promoting the minority agenda within the IT profession since 1975. BDPA has been a leader and pioneer in technology and STEM training for IT professionals and High School students since 1986.

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- Discount rates to the Annual Technology Conference and Career Fair
- Obtain exposure to technical and professional topics through program meetings, seminars and workshops
- Participate in certification support groups
- Discounts on IT certifications and training courses

bdpatoday PTTV

INDUSTRY • CES 2026 • LAS VEGAS, JANUARY 6–9

# CES 2026: Ai LEAVES THE SCREEN AND ENTERS THE REAL WORLD

*The Consumer Technology Association's annual showcase drew more than 148,000 attendees as robots, autonomous vehicles, AI PCs and industrial "digital twins" signaled that artificial intelligence is becoming physical.*

| 148,000+ | 4,100+ | ~1,200 | 2.6M |
|---|---|---|---|
| ATTENDEES (PRE-AUDIT) | EXHIBITORS | STARTUPS IN EUREKA PARK | NET SQ. FT. OF EXHIBITS |

**LAS VEGAS—**The Consumer Technology Association (CTA)® opened 2026 with its largest post-pandemic CES. From January 6 to 9, more than 148,000 attendees—including more than 55,000 from outside the United States—moved through over 2.6 million net square feet of exhibits, according to CTA's pre-audit figures. More than 4,100 exhibitors, including roughly 1,200 startups in Eureka Park, met about 6,900 members of the media, content creators and analysts, while more than 400 conference sessions featured 1,300-plus speakers. More than 60% of Fortune 500 companies and over 200 government officials took part.

*"CES is the world's most powerful proving ground for innovation."*

**GARY SHAPIRO, EXECUTIVE CHAIR & CEO, CTA**

### AI GETS A BODY

If recent shows were about chatbots and AI agents, CES 2026 was about "physical AI"—intelligence built into machines that sense, move and act. NVIDIA founder and CEO Jensen Huang declared that the "ChatGPT moment for robotics" has arrived as the company released open models for robots and self-driving cars and announced partnerships with Boston Dynamics, Caterpillar and LG Electronics.

Hyundai-owned Boston Dynamics brought a new generation of its humanoid Atlas robot onstage, LG introduced its CLOiD home robot, and Caterpillar CEO Joe Creed used his keynote to unveil the Cat AI Assistant for heavy equipment.

### KEYNOTES SET THE AGENDA

AMD Chair and CEO Dr. Lisa Su delivered the opening keynote, unveiling Ryzen AI 400 Series processors, the Instinct MI440X GPU for on-premises enterprise AI and an early look at the "Helios" rack-scale platform. Siemens President and CEO Roland Busch was joined by Huang to expand the companies' industrial AI partnership and launch Digital Twin Composer software.

Lenovo Chairman and CEO Yuanqing Yang took over Las Vegas' Sphere to introduce the Lenovo Qira AI platform and Motorola's Razr Fold, and Havas Chairman and CEO Yannick Bolloré presented AVA, an AI platform that takes creative teams from brief to finished work.

### BEYOND THE HEADLINERS

Show-floor themes spanned AI-powered PCs, smart glasses and wearables, mobility, digital health, energy, the smart home and entertainment. LEGO made its first CES appearance with its Smart Play System, Amazon launched Alexa.com for early-access users, and CES debuted its first Accessibility Stage, with 25 sessions on building products for people with disabilities.

*"The energy at CES 2026 was extraordinary."*

**KINSEY FABRIZIO, PRESIDENT, CTA**

Fabrizio added that "CES brings the global tech ecosystem together for an unmatched volume of deal-making, partnerships, and idea-sharing."

### WHY IT MATTERS FOR BDPA

Physical AI widens demand for the skills BDPA members and students build every day—data science, cloud and edge computing, cybersecurity and systems engineering—while opening new roles in robotics operations, simulation and AI safety. The companies that led this year's show are the same ones hiring for those roles. **bt**

**SAVE THE DATE**

CES 2027 returns to Las Vegas January 6–9, 2027, marking 60 years of CES.

*Sources: CTA, "CES 2026: The Future is Here" (Jan. 9, 2026); CTA Foundation (Feb. 2, 2026); company keynotes and press materials. Attendance figures are pre-audit.*




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CES 2026 • EDUCATION & ACCESS

# AMD Pledges $150 Million for Ai Education as CES Puts Access Center Stage

**LAS VEGAS—**Amid the robots and supercomputers at CES 2026, two announcements spoke directly to who gets to build the future. During her January 5 opening keynote, AMD Chair and CEO Dr. Lisa Su committed $150 million to bring AI into more classrooms and communities, joining a White House initiative—presented onstage by Michael Kratsios, Director of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy—to expand hands-on AI education for students.

The keynote also recognized more than 15,000 student innovators who took part in the AMD AI Robotics Hackathon, run with Hack Club.

Across the show, CES debuted its first-ever Accessibility Stage, powered by Verizon Accessibility, with 25 sessions on turning accessibility into real products and services. The CTA Foundation's Eureka Park pitch competition awarded its grand prize to DotLumen, while HapWare won the Health Innovation Challenge for digital health tools serving people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

"CES 2026 marked a turning point for accessibility at the show," said Stephen Ewell, Executive Director of the CTA Foundation.

For BDPA, which has championed computer science career awareness and tech inclusion since 1975, both moves reinforce a familiar message: Ai skills—and products designed for everyone—start in the classroom and the community. **bt**

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***Charlie Perkins***
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TECHNOLOGY • JANUARY 2026 • CHIPS & PHYSICAL AI

# THE NEW SILICON BEHIND PHYSICAL AI

*NVIDIA, Intel and AMD used the first week of January to launch the platforms that will carry AI from "AI factories" in the cloud to laptops, cars, robots and the factory floor in 2026.*

**LAS VEGAS—**Every humanoid robot, self-driving prototype and AI assistant on the CES 2026 show floor depended on a less visible story: a new generation of silicon. In the opening days of January, the industry's biggest chipmakers each used CES to introduce the hardware that will define how—and where—AI runs this year.

## NVIDIA: VERA RUBIN IN FULL PRODUCTION

In his January 5 keynote, NVIDIA founder and CEO Jensen Huang said the company's next-generation Vera Rubin platform is in full production. Pairing a new Vera CPU with Rubin GPUs plus new networking, storage and security chips, Rubin targets hyperscalers and enterprises building "AI factories." NVIDIA says it can cut inference costs by up to 10 times versus its Blackwell generation and train large mixture-of-experts models with one-quarter as many GPUs. Rubin systems are slated to begin replacing Blackwell in the second half of 2026.

> *"You no longer program software, you train it."*
>
> JENSEN HUANG, FOUNDER & CEO, NVIDIA

NVIDIA also introduced Alpamayo, a family of open-source reasoning models for autonomous vehicles that use chain-of-thought reasoning to work through rare driving situations and explain their decisions. Mercedes-Benz confirmed its new CLA will be the first production vehicle to ship with NVIDIA's full DRIVE AV software stack.

## INTEL: FIRST CHIPS ON 18A

Intel launched its Core Ultra Series 3 processors on January 5—the company's first AI PC platform built on Intel 18A, its most advanced process, designed and manufactured in the United States. Top models offer up to 16 CPU cores, 12 Xe graphics cores and a 50 TOPS neural processing unit (NPU), and Intel claims up to 27 hours of video playback in a reference laptop. More than 200 partner designs are planned; pre-orders opened January 6 and systems began shipping globally January 27. For the first time, Intel also certified the chips for edge uses such as robotics and industrial automation.

## AMD: "AI EVERYWHERE, FOR EVERYONE"

AMD's Ryzen AI 400 Series brings a 60 TOPS NPU to mainstream and business laptops, with first systems shipping in January. In the data center, AMD previewed Helios, a rack-scale platform delivering up to 3 AI exaflops per rack using Instinct MI455X GPUs and EPYC "Venice" CPUs, and introduced the MI440X for on-premises enterprise AI.

> *"As AI adoption accelerates, we are entering the era of yotta-scale computing."*
>
> DR. LISA SU, CHAIR & CEO, AMD

## WHAT IT MEANS

Taken together, January's launches point to AI workloads being split between massive cloud "factories" and increasingly capable local devices—laptops, vehicles, robots and edge systems. For developers and IT leaders, that raises the value of skills in model deployment, edge security, MLOps and energy-efficient computing. **bt**

### JANUARY 2026 LAUNCHES AT A GLANCE

NVIDIA
**Vera Rubin**
**Up to 10×**
lower inference cost vs. Blackwell (company claim); rack-scale NVL72 systems for AI factories
*In full production; rollout 2H 2026*

NVIDIA
**Alpamayo**
Open-source reasoning models for autonomous driving; first ships in the Mercedes-Benz CLA
*Announced Jan. 5, 2026*

INTEL
**Core Ultra Series 3**
**50 TOPS**
NPU; up to 16 CPU cores; first client chips on Intel 18A; 200+ designs
*Shipping globally Jan. 27, 2026*

AMD
**Ryzen AI 400 Series**
**60 TOPS**
NPU for consumer and PRO business laptops
*First systems Jan. 2026; broad OEM availability Q1*

AMD
**Helios Rack**
**3 exaflops**
AI compute per rack; MI455X GPUs + EPYC "Venice" CPUs
*Previewed at CES 2026*

*Sources: NVIDIA CES 2026 keynote (Jan. 5, 2026); Intel press release, "CES 2026: Intel Core Ultra Series 3 Debuts as First Built on Intel 18A" (Jan. 5, 2026); AMD press release, "AMD and its Partners Share their Vision for 'AI Everywhere, for Everyone' at CES 2026" (Jan. 5, 2026). Performance figures are manufacturer claims.*


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TECH & POLICY • CAPITOL HILL • 119TH CONGRESS, 2ND SESSION

# CONGRESS OPENS 2026 WITH A WAVE OF AI, ONLINE SAFETY & CHIP BILLS

*From deepfake accountability to chatbot age checks, AI copyright and data center transparency, lawmakers moved a busy slate of technology legislation in January as federal funding deadlines loomed.*

**WASHINGTON—**The second session of the 119th Congress opened with technology near the top of the agenda. In January, each chamber passed AI and online-safety measures, members introduced more than a dozen new AI-related bills, and appropriators worked to finish the fiscal year 2026 bills that fund the nation's science and technology agencies.

The appropriations package largely rejected proposed cuts to science and technology. It provides about $1.85 billion for the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST)—including at least $55 million for AI measurement science and up to $10 million for the U.S. Center for AI Standards and Innovation—and $8.75 billion for the National Science Foundation, including $30 million for the National AI Research Resource (NAIRR) pilot. The House passed its package; the Senate passed a version after agreeing to negotiate Homeland Security funding separately, and a partial government shutdown began January 31 while the House prepared to take up the Senate bill.

## PASSED ONE CHAMBER • JANUARY 2026

### DEFIANCE Act (S. 1837)

**PASSED SENATE**

Sen. Dick Durbin (D-Ill.). Strengthens accountability for AI-enabled sexual exploitation, including nonconsensual deepfakes. Passed by unanimous consent; now in the House.

### AI-WISE Act (H.R. 5784)

**PASSED HOUSE • JAN. 20**

Reps. Hillary Scholten (D-Mich.) and Troy Downing (R-Mont.). Directs the SBA to create AI-literacy resources to help small businesses weigh AI tools' risks, benefits and privacy.

### Combating Online Predators Act (H.R. 6719)

**PASSED HOUSE**

Rep. Laurel Lee (R-Fla.). Makes intentional threats to distribute child sexual abuse material—"sextortion"—a federal crime. Passed unanimously; awaits the Senate.

## NEW TECH BILLS INTRODUCED • JANUARY 2026

| BILL | SPONSOR | WHAT IT WOULD DO |
|---|---|---|
| **CHAT Act (H.R. 7218)** | Rep. Michael Lawler (R-N.Y.) | Require AI chatbots to verify age and add protections for minors |
| **TRAIN Act (H.R. 7209)** | Rep. Madeleine Dean (D-Pa.) | Let copyright owners subpoena records to learn if their works trained AI models |
| **Data Center Transparency Act (H.R. 6984)** | Rep. Rob Menendez (D-N.J.) | Require reports on data centers' air, water and electricity impacts |
| **AI Overwatch Act (H.R. 6875)** | Rep. Brian Mast (R-Fla.) | Require Commerce export licenses for certain advanced AI chips |
| **Eliminating Bias in Algorithmic Systems Act (S. 3680 / H.R. 7110)** | Sen. Ed Markey (D-Mass.); Rep. Summer Lee (D-Pa.) | Require agencies that use, fund or oversee algorithms to have civil rights offices focused on algorithmic harms |
| **Expanding AI Voices Act (H.R. 7158)** | Rep. Valerie Foushee (D-N.C.) | Codify and expand NSF's ExpandAI program to broaden participation in AI research |
| **Leveraging AI to Streamline the CFR Act (H.R. 7226)** | Rep. Blake Moore (R-Utah) | Use AI to flag redundant and outdated federal regulations |
| **AI in Health Care Efficiency and Study Act (H.R. 7064)** | Res. Comm. Pablo José Hernández (D-P.R.) | Direct HHS to study AI for health care administrative work while protecting patient data |

### WHAT TO WATCH IN 2026

**Cyber threat sharing:** The Cybersecurity Information Sharing Act of 2015, temporarily extended in November 2025, was set to expire January 30 with the stopgap funding law—putting liability protections for private-sector threat sharing on the line in the funding fight.

**Kids online safety & AI preemption:** The Kids Online Safety Act (H.R. 6484 and a Senate version from Sen. Marsha Blackburn), the Cruz–Schatz Kids Off Social Media Act (S. 278) and COPPA 2.0 (S. 836) remain in play, alongside debate over whether Congress should preempt state AI laws following a December 2025 executive order. **bt**

*Sources: Tech Policy Press, "January 2026 US Tech Policy Roundup"; Congress.gov; offices of Reps. Scholten and Lee; Broadband Breakfast (Jan. 28, 2026 Congressional Internet Caucus Academy panel); Covington Inside Privacy (CISA 2015). Status as of January 31, 2026.*




▲ ***(Top Photo)*** **Attendees *entering CES Unveiled Las Vegas*** — photo ©2026 CTA®

▼ ***(Bottom Photo) BDPA interns visit live dash boards during CES®*** — *archived photo ©2015 bdpatoday®*



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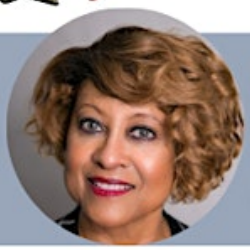
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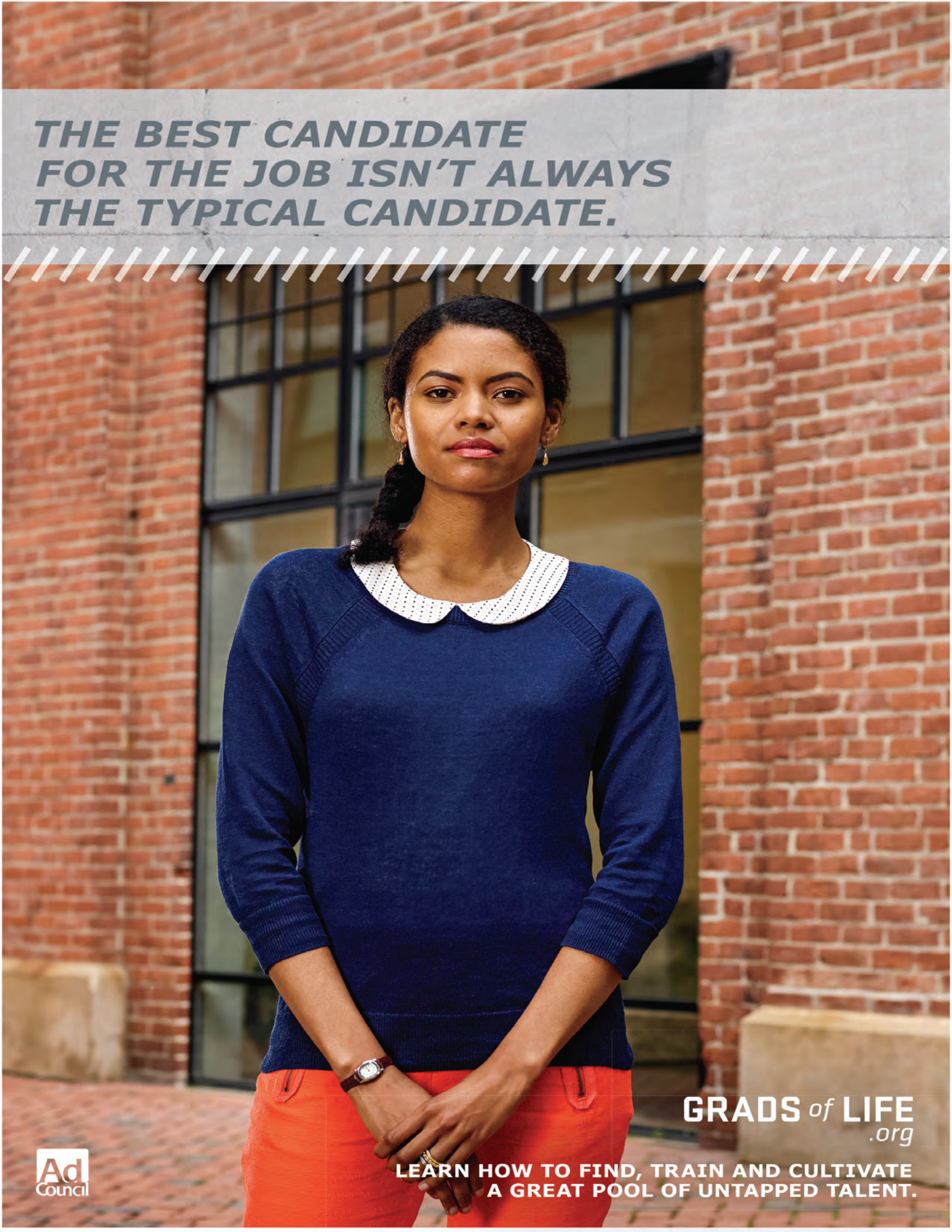
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