

Colton Behannon

(409) 767-0760 | colton.behannon@gmail.com | [linkedin.com/in/coltonbehannon](https://www.linkedin.com/in/coltonbehannon)

PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

AI/ML technical leader building production AI systems and driving enterprise AI strategy. Proven track record leading cross-functional teams, establishing AI development standards, and delivering end-to-end solutions from strategy to production. Expert in agentic AI, LLM applications, and MLOps with demonstrated ability to translate complex technical solutions into business value.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Senior Data Scientist, Generative AI

May 2023 - Present

Equinor, Houston, TX

AI Strategy & Leadership

- Led development of Equinor's enterprise Agentic AI Strategy, defining standards for professional developers, citizen developers, and external AI agent providers. Presented to and approved by VP-level executives (VP AI, VP Technology Management).
- Architected the Agentic AI Blueprint, establishing end-to-end standards for agent orchestration, MCP server development and utilization, A2A protocol adherence, evaluation frameworks, and guardrails. Currently adopted by 4 production projects with enterprise-wide rollout in progress.
- Led cross-functional teams of 5-7 developers and coordinated with 10+ stakeholders across business units, driving project delivery while contributing as a hands-on developer.
- Presented technical talk on AI Agents at Equinor Developer Conference (November 2024), sharing best practices with 50+ developers.
- Co-authored strategic AI recommendations paper to the Norwegian Minister of Digitalisation, advising on AI adoption and implementation.

Production AI Systems

- Designed and deployed a highly secure, multilingual transcription service using OpenAI Whisper in production for highly confidential data. Implemented GPU optimization for low-latency inference and speaker diarization, automating workflows and saving 100+ man-hours monthly.
- Built an end-to-end agentic AI system using Semantic Kernel with integrated tool calling, providing fully traceable real-time technology intelligence and reducing analyst research time by 30%.
- Developed an automated news intelligence pipeline processing 70+ articles monthly using LLM-based metadata extraction and custom ranking algorithms, enabling efficient curation for technology intelligence news ingestion.
- Established a monitoring and evaluation pipeline using Arize Phoenix for a production GitHub Agent.
- Built CI/CD pipelines using GitHub Actions, Docker, and ACR for ML application deployment.

Technical Environment: Azure AI Foundry, Semantic Kernel, LangChain/LangGraph, OpenAI Whisper, Arize Phoenix, Kubernetes, Docker, Azure ML, Neo4j, Vector Search (Azure AI Search), HF Text Generation Inference, git

Data Scientist

December 2021 - April 2023

Perry Homes, Houston, TX

- Led comprehensive statistical analysis of construction options packages across 90+ communities, identifying pricing optimization opportunities worth \$1M-\$4.5M per quarter through analysis of negotiated price patterns.
- Built XGBoost-based construction forecasting models improving accuracy by 2.5x, enabling better resource allocation across 1,500+ active projects. Leveraged construction stage duration features to create explainable models for non-technical stakeholders.
- Designed and implemented automated data pipelines using SQL for construction field data collection, establishing consistent and reliable data infrastructure that powers company-wide analytics and benchmarks.
- Created comprehensive PowerBI dashboards and SQL views for automated tracking of home construction progress across all stages of construction.
- Delivered actionable insights to executive and operational audiences including city presidents and construction managers across 4 regional offices, driving adoption of data-driven decision-making.

Technical Environment: Python, SQL, AzureML, MSSMS, PowerBI

Statistician

May 2021 - December 2021

Alliantgroup, L.P., Houston, TX

- Conducted 500+ statistical samples for R&D tax credit analysis, generating \$3M+ in client benefits and reducing hundreds of hours in employee interview time.
- Refactored legacy R codebase to comply with updated tax code requirements, ensuring continued business operations.

Technical Environment: R, PowerBI, Excel

EDUCATION

M.S. Statistics and Data Science (MSDS)

University of Houston, College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics, Houston, Texas 2021

BBA, Management Information Systems (MIS)

University of Houston, C.T. Bauer College of Business, Houston, Texas 2020

Summa Cum Laude, Dean's List (2017-2020), Academic Excellence Scholarship

SKILLS

AI/ML & Frameworks: Agentic AI, Azure AI Foundry, Semantic Kernel, LangChain/LangGraph, HF Transformers, RAG, Prompt Engineering, Model Evaluation (Arize Phoenix)

MLOps & Infrastructure: Kubernetes, Docker, CI/CD (GitHub Actions), Azure ML, LLMOps, Azure AI Search, Neo4j

Programming: Python, SQL, R, JavaScript

Leadership & Communication: Cross-functional team leadership, executive presentations, technical strategy development, stakeholder management