

## Colton Behannon

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### 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.

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### 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

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**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

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**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

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**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*

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**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