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Jacob Ford

Senior Data Scientist

Portfolio: jake-ford.github.io
github.com/Jake-Ford
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TECHNICAL SKILLS

Tools and Languages	Python, MLOps, Geospatial Analysis, R, Git, DataRobot, SQL
Quantitative Research	Machine Learning, Model Design and Development, Industry and Research Applications
Project Management	Agile, Technical Project Leadership, ML Product Management

EXPERIENCE

SENIOR DATA SCIENTIST <i>Solstice</i>	January 2023 — Present <i>Cambridge, MA</i>
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- Led MLOps strategy and technical project management for EnergyScore after independently securing an \$850,000 Google grant, to develop an inclusive and accurate risk predictor for clean energy financing.
- Developed a custom churn prediction model using XGBoost, leading to 39% decrease in churn for high risk customers.
- Conducted geospatial data analyses using Python's geopandas and R's Simple features (sf) to conduct look-alike modeling to inform marketing estimates for potential market saturation.

DATA SCIENTIST <i>EnergyAllies (formerly Solstice Initiative)</i>	March 2022 — January 2023 <i>Cambridge, MA</i>
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- Conducted a year long machine learning bias research funded by Google into EnergyScore, expanding traditionally metrics to additional protected classes like homeowners and education levels.
- Lead author on research analyzing priorities in community solar funded by DOE Solar Energy Technologies Office.
- Designed survey weighting methodology from primary data and multinomial logistic regression model to test strength of relationships.

Transportation Modeler <i>Durham-Carrboro-Chapel Hill Metropolitan Planning Organization Durham, NC</i>	February 2020 — March 2022 <i>Durham, NC</i>
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- Maintain transportation model predicting multimodal travel volume for analysis of highway, transit, and pedestrian networks.
- Apply advanced techniques like iterative proportional fitting, neural networks, and decision trees to determine trip numbers and purposes.

Program Evaluator <i>North Carolina General Assembly,</i>	July 2018 — February 2020 <i>Raleigh, NC</i>
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- Conducted state policy evaluations and recommend programmatic solutions within legislative in-house watchdog agency.
- Identified \$3.7 million in unnecessary state spending resulting from an errant matching mechanism for hurricane relief funding.

EDUCATION

Master of Public Policy , Georgetown University <i>Editor-in-chief, Georgetown Public Policy Review</i> <i>Baker Innovation Scholar</i> <i>Research Fellow, Center for Research on Children in the United States</i>	May 2018
Bachelor of Science in Mathematics , Allegheny College	May 2014

PUBLICATIONS

- Jacob Ford*, "Fairness in Focus: Insights into Bias Within Machine Learning Risk Evaluations and Established Credit Models" (in preparation).
- Zahra Thani, Winslow Lewis, Liz Neyens, Jacob Ford*, "Priorities' Role in Community Solar: Survey-Based Study and Payment Performance Analysis", Proceedings of the 52nd American Solar Energy Society National Solar Conference 2023. ASER SOLAR 2023. Springer Proceedings in Energy. Springer, Cham., August 2023.
- Allison LaFave, Emily Kelly, and Jacob Ford, "Reasons High School Students Change Their Educational Setting", National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), series NCES 2019-119, November 2018.
- Allison LaFave, Emily Kelly, and Jacob Ford, "Factors that Influence Student College Choice", National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), series NCES 2018-119, June 2018.

Note

*Corresponding Author