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Amanda LaForest

Lead AI/ML Engineer @Booz Allen | Python | SQL | AI Practitioner | Data Warehousing | Data Science | Gen AI | Creative Solutioning



- Booz Allen Hamilton



- University of Virginia, School of Data Science

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About



As a senior health data scientist at Booz Allen Hamilton, I apply my skills and knowledge in AI, big data analytics, data visualization, and data storytelling to address complex and meaningful problems in the public health space.

At my previous position I led many of the illegitimate product detection efforts within the FDA Center for Devices and Radiological Health Product Authentication Team, where I create and tune machine learning models to augment existing fraud prevention architectures, perform anomaly detection, and identify key areas for data quality improvement to improve U.S. healthcare supply chain resiliency.

I graduated with a M.S. in Data Science from the University of Virginia and also

hold a B.S. in Economics from the University of Michigan (go blue!).

I am passionate about using data science to improve the lives of people and communities, and to advance the fields of healthcare and economic development. I am always eager to learn new tools and techniques, and to collaborate with other professionals and experts in interdisciplinary and diverse teams. Nice to meet you!



Top skills

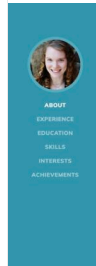
Data Visualization • Data Analytics • Project Management • Leadership • Writing



Featured



Link



AMANDA WEST

AMANDA, (D - (202) 953-3057) AMANDA@FUNDRAISER.COM

I'm 🍌 my name is Amanda and I'm a data scientist at Dogbreck. Within the field of data science, I'm most passionate about machine learning, big data, data visualization, and data storytelling. I do freelance consulting and writing on data science topics. Nice to meet you!



Personal Website
amawest.github.io

Activity

1,338 followers



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Posts

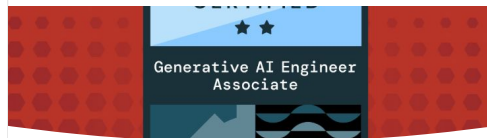
Comments



Amanda LaForest • You

Lead AI/ML Engineer @Booz Allen | Pyt...
2mo • 🌐

I'm happy to share that I've obtained a new certification: Databricks Certified Generative AI Engineer Associate from [Databricks](#)! ...more



Celebrating a New Certification

🌐 11 • 2 comments



Amanda LaForest

Lead AI/ML Engineer @Booz Allen | Pyt...
3mo • 🌐



🌐 6

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Experience





Lead Engineer, Artificial Intelligence/Machine Learning

Booz Allen Hamilton · Full-time

Jan 2024 - Present · 1 yr 6 mos

Remote

Support the FDA CDRH Data Modernization initiative as the data science & engineering team lead.... [...see more](#)

DAYBREAK

Daybreak LLC

Full-time · 2 yrs 6 mos

Denver, Colorado, United States

Senior Data Scientist

Jun 2022 - Dec 2023 · 1 yr 7 mos

Lead illegitimate product detection efforts within the FDA Center for Devices and Radiological Health Product Authentication Prog [...see more](#)

Data Scientist

Jul 2021 - Jun 2022 · 1 yr

- Sectors: National Security, Public Health, & Public Safety
- Tools: Python, Bash, AWS, Tableau, Git/Github/Gitlab, SQL/Postgres,...



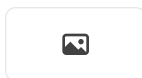
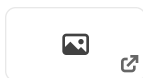
Technical Content Writer

Towards Data Science · Freelance

Jun 2020 - May 2022 · 2 yrs

Charlottesville, Virginia, United States

- Freelance Writer (see 1st and 4th blogs below)
- Towards Data Science Portfolio: <https://amawest.medium.cc> [...see more](#)



University of Virginia

1 yr

Charlottesville, Virginia, United States

Graduate Course Grader

Part-time

Jun 2021 - Aug 2021 · 3 mos

- Graded 59 masters student's assignments for "Practice & Applications of Data Science".... [...see more](#)

Data Science Intern (Capstone)

Sep 2020 - May 2021 · 9 mos

Partnered with InnovateEDU, a NYC-based education nonprofit on a yearlong project to develop natural language processing algo [...see more](#)



Data Visualization Consultant

Clark Data Labs · Internship

Oct 2019 - Apr 2020 · 7 mos

Ann Arbor, Michigan

Collaborated with data visualization team to complete projects requests for university staff. Consulted on interactive data visualizator [...see more](#)

[Show all 11 experiences →](#)

Education



University of Virginia

Master of Science - MS, Data Science

2020 - 2021

Grade: 3.97 GPA

Activities and societies: Code for Charlottesville, MSDS Student Council, Raven Society

- Class President of 72-Member Data Science Graduate Cohort
- Capstone: Data Schema to Formalize Education R&D Using ...see more



University of Michigan

Bachelor of Science - BS, Honors Economics

2016 - 2020

Activities and societies: Society for Women in Economics (SWIE), University of Michigan Taekwondo Club, Omicron Delta Epsilon...

- Mathematics Minor
- Honors Thesis: How has the TRIPS Agreement Affected Inte ...see more

Show all 3 educations →

Licenses & certifications



Databricks Certified Generative AI Engineer Associate

Databricks

Issued Mar 2025 · Expires Mar 2027

Credential ID 137761833

Show credential ↗



Artificial Intelligence Engineer Expert

Booz Allen Hamilton

Issued Feb 2025

Show credential ↗

Show all 10 licenses & certifications →

Volunteering



Volunteer

Code for Charlottesville

Jan 2021 - Jun 2021 · 6 mos

Civil Rights and Social Action



MSDS Student Council President

University of Virginia

Oct 2020 - May 2021 · 8 mos

Social Services

Show all 4 volunteer experiences →

Skills



Leadership



Endorsed by 2 colleagues at University of Virginia



9 endorsements

Data Analysis

DAYBREAK

Endorsed by 2 colleagues at Daybreak LLC



10 endorsements

Show all 23 skills →

Recommendations



Received

Given



Clair McLafferty · 1st

Data scientist | Python | SQL | Looker | Oracle Analytics Cloud | R | Tableau | Author Spooky Cocktails (Jul. 2025)

January 30, 2024, Amanda was senior to Clair but didn't manage Clair directly

I have had the absolute pleasure of knowing and working with Amanda in graduate school and again in the professional world. She is tireless in pursuing every goal she puts forward personally and professionally, and is an incredible technical communicator. During my time at Daybreak, I watched as she worked in a small team handling multiple projects and highly technical deliverables. During this time, she lead a working group to discover needs for an e-commerce project as well as doing major technical overhauls to a Tableau product that highlighted diffi ...see more



Manik Rath · 1st

Strategic Growth Leader, Board Member

December 31, 2023, Manik managed Amanda directly

Amanda LaForest is an extremely talented data scientist, a dedicated professional, and as hard working as they come. Amanda brings curioisty, humility and extraordinary effort to everything she does, be it sports or problem solving. We always say what makes Daybreak great are its great people, and Amanda exemplies this.

Show all 5 received →

Courses



Bayesian Machine Learning

DS 6014



Associated with University of Virginia, School of Data Science

Big Data Analytics

Show all 12 courses →

Honors & awards



High Honors in Economics

Issued by University of Michigan · Apr 2020



Associated with University of Michigan

Earned high honors for undergraduate thesis, "Playing by the Rules: How has the TRIPS Agreement Affected Intellectual Property Adherence?" supervised by...

2nd Place at UChicago Econometrics Games

Issued by University of Chicago · May 2019

Teams are given a dataset and 14 hours to devise and answer a question of economic importance. We wrote a comprehensive research paper title ...see more

Show all 5 honors & awards →

Languages



French

Elementary proficiency

Mandarin

Elementary proficiency

Interests

Top Voices

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Schools



DJ Patil · 2nd

Investor, entrepreneur, public policy, former U.S Chief Data Scientist
745,066 followers

✓ Following



Cassie Kozyrkov · 2nd

CEO, Google's first Chief Decision Scientist, AI Adviser, Decision Strategist, Keynote Speaker (makecassietalk.com), LinkedIn Top Voice
644,099 followers

✓ Following

Profile language

English



Public profile & URL

www.linkedin.com/in/amalaforest



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Ashley Estes · 2nd

AI Consultant @ Booz Allen Hamilton | Transformation Strategist | AI Adoption Enthusiast | Bridging Technology, People, & Culture | Prosci@...

+ Follow



Hannah Schmuckler · 1st

Data Scientist/Senior Consultant at Booz Allen Hamilton

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Decision Scientist | Tech Lead

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Pavani Dindukurthi

Sr Data Engineer at Booz Allen Hamilton

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