Blake Weston

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EDUCATION

University of Illinois at Chicago   Chicago, IL
Candidate for Master of Science in Business Analytics   December 2021
GPA 3.71

University of Illinois at Chicago   Chicago, IL
Bachelor of Science in Finance   May 2018

EXPERIENCE

MERGE   Chicago, IL
Senior Finance Analyst   September 2020 - Present
- Prepare and review monthly, quarterly, and annual forecasts for all client accounts.
- Lead client meetings on requirements for the current and future planned forecasting processes.
- Create insightful visualizations to summarize analyses and facilitate decision-making for C-Suite executives.
- Utilize SQL to extract and manipulate data from Finance database.
- Develop Python scripts and VBA macros to automate reporting and finance metrics for client accounts.

DDB Chicago   Chicago, IL
Finance Analyst   September 2019 - September 2020
- Finance analyst assigned to multi-billion dollar government account.
- Monitor budgets across all marketing campaigns, generate financial reports and analyze data to provide commentary and process improvements.
- Review general ledger accounts and perform reconciliations for errors in revenue and inter-company posting.
- Provide financial support to client account teams and monitor client budgets on a project basis.
- Generate financial reports and analyze data to provide commentary and process improvements.
- Assume role of primary financial contact for account team and resource manager on assigned client business.
- Review analyst work of journal entries, monthly billings, and job reconciliation.
- Provide client financial analysis in the review of monthly results.
- Create POs, prepare client job budgets, and track burn rate of all projects.

INAP   Remote
Senior Billing Analyst   April 2017 - September 2019
- Assist financial analysts and accountants with monthly and quarterly reports; mainly using Excel to build reports validating company revenue, churn, and other financial metrics.
- Execute general ledger analysis, billing reconciliation, and produced month-end financial reports for C-suite executives. Responsible for explaining variances in the financial data to executives and provide insights on how to improve metrics.
- Redesigned Excel database to ensure accurate financial reporting without needing manual input. The project also resulted in easier access to monthly reports with simpler controls.
- Perform billing audits to ensure SOX compliance, as well as handling any charge-backs or payment processing errors with our payment processor.

SKILLS

- Programming Languages: Python (Pandas, Scipy, Numpy, Matplotlib, Scikit-learn) & R (Caret, Tidyverse, xgboost)
- Software: Microsoft Office (including Excel), Tableau, VBA, IBM Cognos, Microsoft AX, and Oracle Systems (Including NetSuite & BRM)
- Professional experience with accounting concepts (debits/credits, revenue recognition, per cent complete, reserves/absorptions)