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Dear HR department at ACLED,

I am excited to apply for the Remote Associate Data Scientist position at ACLED. With a PhD in Statistics and professional experience as a Research Scientist working with the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), I bring advanced analytical data science and statistics experience, a strong record of critical thinking, and a proven ability to deliver rigorous insights in collaborative and independent projects. My background aligns with your needs, particularly in the application of statistical and machine learning methods that answer questions with ACLED data but also in my flexibility and curiosity that will allow me to address *ad hoc* data science tasks in a timely manner.

ACLED's mission in providing free, high-quality, and real-time data and analysis on political violence and protests worldwide resonates with my personal drive to apply my technical skills in ways that serve the public good. I am familiar with ACLED because of an interdisciplinary undergraduate research project I co-advised with a professor in the Peace and Conflict department at Swarthmore College. With a team of four undergraduate students, we analyzed ACLED data in Syria and drafted a Spencer Grant proposal in collaboration with the (international) Assistance Coordination Unit to investigate any change in priorities regarding education for internally displaced people residing in areas of high conflict. Since January 2024, I have been working remotely as an affiliate of the Statistical Engineering Division at NIST. This work has enabled me to contribute to statistical research that improves national metrology standards for time keeping and for nanoparticle research. Additionally, I was awarded funding to study the detection of deep fake media which relies upon an understanding of generative artificial intelligence and machine learning. I am eager to grow my skills in this blossoming area so that I may apply them in ways that contribute to public knowledge and encourage political transparency.

Although I have not yet had the opportunity to work explicitly with natural language processing techniques, my rigorous computational and theoretical statistical background make me confident in my ability to quickly adopt these methods. Each of my references together with the publications and experiences listed on my CV provide evidence of my expertise in the building blocks of NLPs including generalized linear models, mixed-effects models, Bayesian inference, dimensionality reduction, experimental design, bootstrapping and confidence intervals, probabilistic programming in Stan, and time series analysis. Additionally, my research at NIST has involved interacting with a Linux computer cluster which basically functions as a private cloud, allowing me self-service virtual access to high performance computing.

My reference, Dr Adam Pintar can attest to my technical abilities and my performance and time management abilities in a remote position with minimal supervision. My references Drs. Rochelle Tractenberg and Donnal LaLonde can attest to the ease with which I collaborate across global teams as I have in my leadership positions within the American Statistical Association and as a nominated member of the National Advisory Committee to the US Census.

I welcome the opportunity to discuss how my skills can support ACLED's mission. Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to your reply.

Regards,
Suzanne Thornton