Notes on networking with other data scientists.

LinkedIn message inviting people to talk with me:

Hello. I’m reaching out to you because I am changing careers, taking data science classes, and seeking some advice. If you would have time for a short phone call, I would like to talk to you about your experience in data science. Thanks in advance.

I sent this to Ryan Haunfelder, Ed Isaaks, Penny Stewert, David Sondergaard, Edward White, Mike Schumacher, Eric Fiolkoski, Michael Opie, Roshanak Omrani, and Charles Howley.

Responses:

David Sondergaard

* Heather Trantham, PhD, PE, PEng, PMP, D.GE sent the following message at 5:58 AM

**[View Heather’s profile](https://www.linkedin.com/in/heathertrantham/)**

**[Heather Trantham, PhD, PE, PEng, PMP, D.GE](https://www.linkedin.com/in/heathertrantham/)**

[**Heather Trantham, PhD, PE, PEng, PMP, D.GE**](https://www.linkedin.com/in/heathertrantham/) 5:58 AM

Hello. I’m reaching out to you because I am changing careers, taking data science classes, and seeking some advice. If you would have time for a short phone call, I would like to talk to you about your experience in data science. Thanks in advance. -Heather Trantham

* **David Sondergaard** is now a connection
* David Sondergaard sent the following message at 6:02 AM

**[View David’s profile](https://www.linkedin.com/in/davesondergaard/)**

**[David Sondergaard](https://www.linkedin.com/in/davesondergaard/)**

[**David Sondergaard**](https://www.linkedin.com/in/davesondergaard/) 6:02 AM

I may not be the most help, as I too am trying to break into the field. However, I’ve taken many classes on Udemy and have learned a great deal from them. I also take the projects and assignments from my MBA program and try to add a big data aspect to them. You have the PhD which helps roughly 88 percent of data scientists have a masters or higher with about 46 percent having s PhD.

* Heather Trantham, PhD, PE, PEng, PMP, D.GE sent the following message at 8:40 AM

**[View Heather’s profile](https://www.linkedin.com/in/heathertrantham/)**

**[Heather Trantham, PhD, PE, PEng, PMP, D.GE](https://www.linkedin.com/in/heathertrantham/)**

[**Heather Trantham, PhD, PE, PEng, PMP, D.GE**](https://www.linkedin.com/in/heathertrantham/) 8:40 AM

David, Thanks for letting me know. Do you know what area of data science you would like to work in?

* David Sondergaard sent the following message at 8:52 AM

**[View David’s profile](https://www.linkedin.com/in/davesondergaard/)**

**[David Sondergaard](https://www.linkedin.com/in/davesondergaard/)**

[**David Sondergaard**](https://www.linkedin.com/in/davesondergaard/) 8:52 AM

Consulting, more in the business intelligence realm. What made you want to get out of civil engineering

* Heather Trantham, PhD, PE, PEng, PMP, D.GE sent the following message at 5:19 PM

**[View Heather’s profile](https://www.linkedin.com/in/heathertrantham/)**

**[Heather Trantham, PhD, PE, PEng, PMP, D.GE](https://www.linkedin.com/in/heathertrantham/)**

[**Heather Trantham, PhD, PE, PEng, PMP, D.GE**](https://www.linkedin.com/in/heathertrantham/) 5:19 PM

I loved most of the engineering work that I did, but there were two experiences that made me question whether or not I wanted to be in consulting. Water under the bridge. Keep in touch. We can compare notes.

David Sondergaard

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Michael Opie

Hello Heather, congrats on seeking a career in Data Science. The two greatest things you could learn are SQL - Oracle and MS SQL Server. You don’t have to become a data Architect, but advanced SQL skills will served you well. Also, learn Tableau as much as you can. It is a leading data visualization software. Let me know if you have any questions. Regards, Opie

* Thanks for getting back to me. I am gathering all the advice that I can. Do you work with SQL? What kinds of projects do you work on? Thanks, Heather
* Michael Opie sent the following message at 5:01 PM

**[View Michael’s profile](https://www.linkedin.com/in/michael-o-52b0a134/)**

**[Michael Opie](https://www.linkedin.com/in/michael-o-52b0a134/)**

[**Michael Opie**](https://www.linkedin.com/in/michael-o-52b0a134/) 5:01 PM

I work with SQL everyday! My work is freelance, in the fields of finance, health, operations, and web analytics. I work in any industry. The best thing about data scientist are our skills are transferable to any field.

Michael Opie

* Heather Trantham, PhD, PE, PEng, PMP, D.GE sent the following message at 5:40 PM

**[View Heather’s profile](https://www.linkedin.com/in/heathertrantham/)**

**[Heather Trantham, PhD, PE, PEng, PMP, D.GE](https://www.linkedin.com/in/heathertrantham/)**

[**Heather Trantham, PhD, PE, PEng, PMP, D.GE**](https://www.linkedin.com/in/heathertrantham/) 5:40 PM

Thanks for the info. I really appreciate it.

* Heather Trantham, PhD, PE, PEng, PMP, D.GE sent the following message at 6:44 PM

**[View Heather’s profile](https://www.linkedin.com/in/heathertrantham/)**

**[Heather Trantham, PhD, PE, PEng, PMP, D.GE](https://www.linkedin.com/in/heathertrantham/)**

[**Heather Trantham, PhD, PE, PEng, PMP, D.GE**](https://www.linkedin.com/in/heathertrantham/) 6:44 PM

Hello. I’m reaching out to you because I am changing careers, taking data science classes, and seeking some advice. If you would have time for a short phone call, I would like to talk to you about your experience, your role, and the company you work for. Thanks in advance.

* **Jaclyn Kokx** is now a connection
* Jaclyn Kokx sent the following message at 6:45 PM

**[View Jaclyn’s profile](https://www.linkedin.com/in/jaclyn-kokx-spartans/)**

**[Jaclyn Kokx](https://www.linkedin.com/in/jaclyn-kokx-spartans/)**

[**Jaclyn Kokx**](https://www.linkedin.com/in/jaclyn-kokx-spartans/) 6:45 PM

Sure, how about sometime on Monday? I'm at 517-927-8748. Jackie

* Heather Trantham, PhD, PE, PEng, PMP, D.GE sent the following message at 6:47 PM

**[View Heather’s profile](https://www.linkedin.com/in/heathertrantham/)**

**[Heather Trantham, PhD, PE, PEng, PMP, D.GE](https://www.linkedin.com/in/heathertrantham/)**

[**Heather Trantham, PhD, PE, PEng, PMP, D.GE**](https://www.linkedin.com/in/heathertrantham/) 6:47 PM

Great, thank you. What time works for you?

* Jaclyn Kokx sent the following message at 6:49 PM

**[View Jaclyn’s profile](https://www.linkedin.com/in/jaclyn-kokx-spartans/)**

**[Jaclyn Kokx](https://www.linkedin.com/in/jaclyn-kokx-spartans/)**

[**Jaclyn Kokx**](https://www.linkedin.com/in/jaclyn-kokx-spartans/) 6:49 PM

How about 4pm on Monday?

Jaclyn Kokx

* TODAYHeather Trantham, PhD, PE, PEng, PMP, D.GE sent the following message at 8:20 AM

**[View Heather’s profile](https://www.linkedin.com/in/heathertrantham/)**

**[Heather Trantham, PhD, PE, PEng, PMP, D.GE](https://www.linkedin.com/in/heathertrantham/)**

[**Heather Trantham, PhD, PE, PEng, PMP, D.GE**](https://www.linkedin.com/in/heathertrantham/) 8:20 AM

That would be great! I really appreciate it. We can skype, or my cell phone number is 970-232-8766. Heather

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Phone call with Jackie Kokx

Jackie and I talked on the phone for 20 minutes.

She is also an engineer by degree, but never practiced in engineering.

She know Python and SQL. The site codewars is a good place to learn more SQL skills.

She chose the direction in data science (health) because she didn’t want to be a corporate marketing tool.

She works at a small company (20 people). There are 3 data scientist and 2 data analysts. Her schedule is flexible and she can work from home. Her career path is somewhat indeterminate because the company she works for is so small but growing.

Her suggestions for me:

* Have projects to talk about when you start interviewing
* Don’t underestimate the importance of SQL
* Have a good LinkedIn profile
* Have a data science blog where you post projects that you are working on
* Go to meet ups and present
* Know about cloud computing
* Tableau is a good thing to learn

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* Lewis Dixon sent the following message at 10:00 AM

**[View Lewis’ profile](https://www.linkedin.com/in/lewis-dixon-30011812/)**

**[Lewis Dixon](https://www.linkedin.com/in/lewis-dixon-30011812/)**

[**Lewis Dixon**](https://www.linkedin.com/in/lewis-dixon-30011812/) 10:00 AM

I am happy to have you as a LinkedIn contact. CDP has been developing customized Geospatial tools, and incorporating 3D scanning into our everyday workflows. My business partner, David Carter, has been developing these geospatial tools since we went into business nearly 29 years ago. These tools are very user-friendly and positively impact infrastructure and public safety. We work with these geospatial tools every day in all of our engineering and survey projects to improve work flow efficiencies and overall communication. The potential applications are practically infinite. Please feel free to contact me anytime if you have any questions. Even if you are not interested in our services, I am glad to have you as a contact and look forward to learning more about you on this platform. Sincerely, Lewis

Lewis Dixon

* TODAYHeather Trantham, PhD, PE, PEng, PMP, D.GE sent the following message at 1:11 PM

**[View Heather’s profile](https://www.linkedin.com/in/heathertrantham/)**

**[Heather Trantham, PhD, PE, PEng, PMP, D.GE](https://www.linkedin.com/in/heathertrantham/)**

[**Heather Trantham, PhD, PE, PEng, PMP, D.GE**](https://www.linkedin.com/in/heathertrantham/) 1:11 PM

Lewis, Thank you for the response. I spent 20 years as a geotechnical engineer, so the geospatial aspect of CDP is very interesting to me. I also appreciate your offer to contact you. As I get closer to finishing my data science course, I may reach out to you. Thanks again, Heather

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Data Data Scientists Data Scientists Bottom of Form

Questions to ask data scientists.

1. How did you decide which direction to take in data science?
2. What do you like about working for XYZ Company?
3. What are your day to day responsibilities?
4. What platform do you work in (python, SQL, R)?
5. What is your career path?
6. What are the challenges you have in your data science position?
7. How big is the data science group that you work with?

These questions are in no particular order, and I’ll just try to work them in during our conversation.

Data Scientists from Fort Collins Data Science MeetUp Group

Keven McManus,

Hello Tim, Would you have time for a 10 minute phone call. I am reaching out to data science professionals to learn more about what kind of work is available and what is your experience with being a data science professional. Thanks in advance, Heather