Nkechi Jennifer Akinwale (Akwari)

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OBJECTIVE

Researcher, machine learning engineer, and data scientist proficient in Python, SQL, and Java, with 3+ years of hands-on expertise. Skilled in database, data analysis, and machine learning techniques. Leverages extensive background in analysis, program, and project management to deliver impactful results.

EDUCATION

Ph.D. Computer Science   Fall 2025 (expected)
MEng, Computer Science   2023
  University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, Ohio, USA   CGPA: 3.6/4.0
  Award: Graduate Student Engineer of the Month
  Research Areas: Databases, Data Provenance, Machine Learning

Bachelor of Science, Computer Science   2018
  University of Ibadan, Oyo, Nigeria   First Class Honors
  Award: Best Graduating Student in Computer Science   CGPA: 6.2/7.0

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Python, SQL, Java, Machine Learning, Apache Spark, MS Azure, Tableau, MS Excel, Scrum, Git

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant, Database and Machine Learning   January 2022 – Present
University of Cincinnati (UC), Ohio, USA
- Conduct extensive research, collaborating with the research team to uncover novel insights in harnessing data provenance to enhance machine learning (ML) explainability and interpretability
- Published and presented research findings at IEEEW conference and other academic gatherings

PROJECT

- **Nkechi J. Akwari** (2022), "Simple Exploratory Data Analysis + Stroke Prediction Using Six (6) Machine Learning models," Kaggle, retrieved from https://www.kaggle.com/code/nkechiyeree/simple-eda-stroke-prediction-using-6-ml-models
- Github - https://github.com/jennifernakinwale?tab=repositories

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Business Process Analyst and Change Manager   2020 – 2021
Heritage Bank PLC, Lagos, Nigeria
  Industry: Financial Institution; Projects Domain: Web, Mobile, API
- Conducted requirement elicitation sessions with project stakeholders to capture project specifications and well-defined phased delivery output and timelines, to align with project expectations at the highest level of quality.
- Performed data analysis to extract meaningful insights from business engagements
- Led successful change management sessions, facilitating deployment to live environment

Technical Project Manager, AppZone Limited, Lagos, Nigeria   2019 – 2020
  Industry: FinTech; Projects Domain: Web, Mobile
- Led agile teams of up to 20 programmers, analysts, testers, and network specialists to ensure project milestones were completed on time, on budget, and with the desired results.
- Delivered top-tier performance, consistently achieving 100% quality output and deliverables across all project phases.

PUBLICATIONS

- (Paper) Turnau, J.*, **Akwari, N.***, Lee, S., & Rajput, D. (2023, April). Provenance-based Explanations for Machine Learning (ML) Models. In *2023 IEEE 39th International Conference on Data Engineering Workshops (ICDEW)* (pp. 40-43). IEEE. (*These authors contributed equally to this work)
- (Abstract) (Poster) **Nkechi Jennifer Akinwale,** Justin Turnau, Seokki Lee (PhD) (2024, February) American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), "Leveraging Data Provenance for Explainable Machine Learning Model Predictions"

CERTIFICATIONS AND TRAINING

- Microsoft Certified: Azure AI Fundamentals   2023
- Microsoft Certified: Azure Data Fundamentals   2023
- Become a SQL Developer, LinkedIn Learning   2022

AWARDS AND HONORS

- Cadence Diversity in Technology Scholarship Award.   2023
- Impact Award, NCWIT Aspirations in Computing   2023
- Graduate Student Engineer of the Month, University of Cincinnati, USA   2023
- Best Graduating Student in Computer Science, University of Ibadan, Nigeria   2018
- Special Merit Award for Overall Best Student, Yaba College of Technology, Nigeria   2013

CONFERENCE PEER-REVIEWING

- Reviewer, IEEE Computer Science and Data Engineering (CSDE)   2023
- Reviewer, International Conference on Very Large Data Bases (VLDB)   2022, 2023

LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE

- Expert Reader, Mandela Washington Fellowship, USA   October 2023
- Mentor, SWENext Invent It, Build It (IIBI)   October 2023, 2022
- IEEEXtreme17 Global Strategy Team Member   June - December 2023
- Reviewer, Grace Hopper Celebration (GHC) Scholar Application   May 2023

PANEL PRESENTATIONS

- "Maximizing Your Potential: Strategies for Pushing Boundaries and Achieving Success in Graduate School," Society of Women Engineers 2023 Annual Conference, Los Angeles, CA, USA

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP

- Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) Computer Society
- Association for Computing Machinery (ACM)
- Society of Women Engineers (SWE)