Jacob Pickrel-Smith

**Phone: (402) 429-0076**

**Email:** [**Jacob.Pickrel-Smith@outlook.com**](mailto:Jacob.Pickrel-Smith@outlook.com)

**Location: Lincoln, NE**

**Website & Portfolio: lerkcip.github.io**

**LinkedIn: LinkedIn.com/in/Jacob-Pickrel-Smith/**

# Technical Skills

**Data Analysis & Visualization**:

* Advanced Proficiency in Python, SQL, Pandas, NumPy, and Matplotlib (6 years).
* Expertise in Power BI and Snowflake (4 years), complex pattern matching (9 years), and Excel (11 years).
* Experienced in NLP (sentiment analysis, topic modeling, tokenization, lemmatization, LDA - 2 yrs), syntactic analysis (6 yrs), and time series analysis (ARIMA - 2 yrs).
* Intermediate knowledge in cloud and big data technologies: Azure ecosystem, and Hadoop clusters (2 years each).

**Model Development Expertise**:

* Statistical analysis, inference, regression, and forecasting (5 years); classification (3 years).

**Additional Expertise**:

* Building scalable machine learning (ML) pipelines (3 years).
* Proficient in Integrated Development Environments (IDEs): Jupyter Notebook/Lab (6 years), Google Collab (3 years), PyCharm (1 year).

**Communication & Teamwork**:

* Effective communicator with 5 years of experience in fostering cross-functional teamwork and articulating complex data insights with clarity.

# Professional Experience

**Lead Business Systems Specialist**  
*Ameritas Mutual Holding Company*

*Lincoln, NE*

*July 2024-Present*

* SME for Power BI, Snowflake, Excel, and SQL; build highly performant Power BI, Power Automate, and Power Apps workflows supporting self-service analytics for ‘citizen analysts’.
* Design, develop, and deploy Finance/Accounting systems focused on Oracle Cloud Fusion EPM (EDMCS, EPBCS, FCCS, PCMCS).
* Administer security, workflows, multi-dimensional hierarchies; lead data validation, systems integration, UAT, and control report automation.
* Architect scalable enterprise Streamlit apps, production SQL/Python solutions, and reports handling 100+ billion data points with sub-5 second queries.
* Supported Snowflake migration by validating pipelines, built dashboards, automated controls, and delivered critical milestones ahead of schedule then assisted delayed teams with optimized solutions.

**Budget Analyst**  
*Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services*

*Lincoln, NE*

*July 2023-July 2024*

* Advocated for and secured approval to transition to SQL; designed, built, implemented, and maintained the process, significantly improving data management and reporting.
* Analyzed and managed financial data and budgets, focusing on the state’s complex $4B Medicare and Medicaid programs; provided recommendations, performed analyses, and generated reports from high-level overviews to detailed claims.
* Spearheaded Medicaid and Medicare data analysis using regression models including ARIMA, achieving a 15% improvement in predictive budgeting for Medicare parts A and B.
* Analyzed and disseminated monthly budget reports; collaborated with program managers to identify discrepancies and trends; ensured regulatory compliance and monitored grant payments.
* Prepared fiscal notes, grant budget status reports, budget summaries, and contributed to biennial budget development.
* Applied expertise in state budgeting, accounting policies, federal grants, and revenue sources; utilized program evaluation, database and workbook management, and quantitative analysis to advise program officials.

**Board Treasurer**  
*Lincoln Haymarket Development Corp*

*Lincoln, NE*

*January 2021- January 2025*

* Ensured financial accountability and optimized strategies for the Corporation's ~$300,000 annual budget, focusing on risk management and community project support, leading to a 35% profit increase.
* Prepared comprehensive financial reports for the Board of Directors, contributed as an active Executive Committee member, and maintained accurate accounts of receipts and disbursements.
* Compiled and reported monthly and yearly KPIs to address organizational challenges and support growth and adaptability.

**Membership Operations Specialist**  
*Arbor Day Foundation*

*Lincoln, NE*

*April 2022-June 2023*

* Oversaw and analyzed operations for 40 multi-channel fundraising campaigns generating $30M+ annually; led improvements saving over $250,000.
* Utilized advanced Excel to compile and analyze survey data from 1M+ members and 4M+ prospects, managing 3M+ data points to guide strategic decisions.
* Served as liaison between internal teams and vendors, enhancing business processes and reporting, reducing bottleneck response times by an average of 15%, peaking at 40%.
* Delivered data-driven recommendations to senior management to improve multi-channel member experience.

**Rate Coordinator**  
*Crete Carrier Corp*

*Lincoln, NE*

*October 2020-April 2022*

* Served as the primary point of contact for rating inquiries, verifying requested rating updates against customer contracts and leading ETL (Extract, Transform, Load) processes to transform unstructured contract information into structured data, dramatically reducing workload from 40 to 2 hours per week.
* Audited and reconciled customer rates within financial systems to ensure accuracy, playing a key role in maintaining the integrity of financial transactions.
* Developed and improved reporting processes, effectively maintaining and updating the client database, which streamlined operations and enhanced data management practices.

**Office Operations Supervisor**  
*U.S. Census Bureau*

*Lincoln, NE*

*February 2020-October 2020*

* Orchestrated the planning, scheduling, and organization of training sessions across Nebraska, leveraging an SQL database interfaced with Python to optimize coordination and communication efforts, demonstrating advanced analytical and technological proficiencies.
* Demonstrated a keen aptitude for financial management through the establishment of auditing processes for US Census documents in Nebraska that comply with standards in data analysis, reporting, and compliance, leading to a 50% reduction in the time it took to complete third-party audits and achieving third-place nationwide accuracy.
* Temporarily assumed the State Interim Co-Human Resources Officer role, providing pivotal leadership and oversight, ensuring adherence to regulations, and enhancing human capital, akin to the technical and supervisory roles in budget and financial analysis.

# Projects

**Culture Committee - Data Analysis Subcommittee Lead, *DHHS***

* Engineered and implemented an intricate survey analysis tool to foster organization culture improvements, utilizing text classification, sentiment analysis, and clustering for insight generation. Leveraged Python with libraries such as PyPDF2, PyPDFMiner, Fitz, Openpyxl, for data extraction; Pandas, NumPy, Matplotlib, Regex for data manipultation and munging; and NLTK, Gensim, SpaCy for NLP and topic modeling, aiding in strategic organization development decisions.

**Finance and Program Analysis – Budget Analyst: Legislative Side Project, *DHHS***

* Developed a scalable data pipeline for the automated extraction and consolidation of legislative bill proposals and statuses, utilizing Python libraries such as BeautifulSoup (bs4) and requests for webscraping, with tqdm and ThreadPoolExecutor for visual progress updates and optimizing CPU usage, respectively, creating a centralized repository of crucial legislative information.

**Finance and Program Analysis – Budget Analyst: Executable Side Project, *DHHS***

* Constructed a proprietary frontend search executable to assist staff in generating ad-hoc queries for auditor demands and query optimization. This solution is supported by a new backend SQLite database, which is continually updated through a dynamic data pipeline from the state’s DB2 data warehouse, employing Python libraries such as sqlite3 for database operations, tabulate for visualization during data testing, tkinter for UI design, and pyinstaller for converting Python scripts to executable files.

# Education

**Master of Science in Data Science**  
*Bellevue University | Graduated: June 2025 | GPA 4.0 out of 4.0 Scale*  
  
**Bachelor of Science in Business Administration**  
*Nebraska Wesleyan University | Graduated: May 2023*