Samuel T. Shanks, PhD

503 Leicester Ave., Duluth MN 55803

218-349-9884 | sshanks@fastmail.fm

LEARNER | INPUT | IDEATION | ANALYTICAL | ACHIEVER

– Relentlessly Curious –

CAREER VISION:

- I leverage the ever-growing body of techniques from Data Science to collaboratively and strategically transform organizations from within.
- I do my best work in teams composed of smart, energetic people that have a strong sense of purpose and diverse perspectives.
- I believe that our era of "big data" has the potential to create workplaces where we minimize repetitive actions and leverage insight and creativity to make better, more innovative decisions.

CAREER SUMMARY:

I have spent more than two decades as an administrator, professor, and academic growth leader. I have consistently gravitated toward collaborative, multidisciplinary projects with an emphasis on strategic thinking, design, and innovation. Along the way I have accrued a broad skill set that includes more than seven years of experience in leveraging coding & data analytics to support continuous improvement cycles and employee development. I have served at multiple levels of leadership including project management, departmental oversight, and external consulting as a peer reviewer for the Higher Learning Commission, which is the organization that accredits nearly 1/3 of America's colleges and universities. I think of myself as a pragmatic "big-picture" thinker who operates with an emphasis on the personal touch.

SKILLS HONED ACROSS FROM A VARIED CAREER:

- *Theatre* – Collaboration, verbal communication, project management, & leadership skills
- *Teaching* – Verbal & written communication, leadership, & research skills
- *Administration* – Management & leadership skills, strategic collaboration, employee development, data analytics, coding experience
- *Independent Research* – Time management, multi-disciplinary expertise, interdisciplinary communication skills.

Check out my data science portfolio at: https://profshanks.github.io

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MY SKILL SET

EXCEPTIONAL:
- Quantitative Analysis
- Collaboration
- Strategic Ideation
- Management/Leadership
- Employee Training & Development
- Independent Research & Problem Solving
- Communicating Across Difference

SOLID:
- Python (Pandas, Matplotlib, Seaborn, Openpyxl, etc.)
- Data Visualization
- Written Communication
- Robotics

WORKING KNOWLEDGE:
- Machine Learning/Neural Networks
- Tableau/Panel
- SQL
- R /Shiny/Quarto
- HTML/CSS
- C++

IN DEVELOPMENT:
- Graph Data Modeling
- Julia
- Generative AI Prompting & API-Based Applicaitons

Career Summary

Assistant Professor/Faculty Coordinator, UST 1000 Program   September 2016 – present
University of Minnesota Duluth, (UMD) Duluth, MN

Redevelopment and oversight of UMD's First-Year experience course/program. Implementation of data-driven analysis of evaluation & survey data. Faculty development leveraging best-practices in student development & community building. Campus-wide communication of the program's goals, practices, and outcomes. Mentoring and instructing students.

Tenured Associate Professor/Division Chair (Gen. Ed. & Honors)   March 2011 – August 2013
Briar Cliff University (BCU), Sioux City, IA

Oversight of the BCU's General Education & Honors programs. Redevelopment of first-year experience program. Point-person for Higher Learning Commission accreditation planning. Faculty development leveraging best-practices in general education. Mentoring and instructing students.

Assistant/Technical Director & Freelance Production Designer   August 1998 – August 2006
Multiple Theatre & Opera Companies

Project management focusing on the construction, installation, rehearsal & performance processes for the scenic & lighting departments of theatre and opera companies in New York, New Jersey, Oklahoma, and Utah. If you want to rapidly build a young person's communication & collaboration skills, this is a superb environment in which to do it!

EDUCATION

- 1996 – Columbia University, BA, Theatre
- 2002 – City University of New York, MPhil, Theatre
- 2008 – City University of New York, PhD, Theatre History, Criticism, & Literature
- Independent Researh & Ad Hoc Coursework:
  - Data Science, Machine Learning, Data Visualization, Statistics, Computer Science, Software Analysis, Robotics, Chemistry, Geology (Ind. Study – 2013-2022)
  - "Foundations in Design Thinking" Certificate (IDEO U – 2020)
  - "Underrepresented at a PWI – Supporting Students of Color through their transition within a Predominately White Institution" (Online Course – National Resource Center for The First-Year Experience – 2020)
  - Machine Learning Specialization (Coursera/Stanford AI – 2022)
  - Google Data Analytics Professional Certificate (Coursera/Google – 2022)
- The Next Two Courses…
  - Azure Data Scientist Associate (Microsoft)
  - Senior Data Scientist certification (DASCA)