

Founder | Lead Instructor

Christopher Garzon



Introduction

Chris has worked as a Data Engineer at Amazon, Lyft, and multiple startups. After starting his career as a data analyst at Amazon, he transitioned to DE with the help of great mentors — a journey that inspired him to start DEA. He's since helped over 1,000 students break into data engineering by demystifying career paths and focusing on real-world skills.

Linkedin: [Christopher Garzon](#)

CTO - AWS Certified | Snowflake Certified | DBT Certified

Ninad Magdum



Introduction

Ninad brings over 8 years of experience in data engineering, data warehousing, devops, machine learning, mlops, genai and genai-ops. He's led 50+ end-to-end projects for top organizations including Walt Disney, CVS, Fastenal, Capgemini, etc. His expertise spans AWS, Azure, Snowflake, Databricks, GenAI(AWS), Time Series (ML), MLOps, DBT, Streamlit, Tableau, and more, with a strong focus on both cloud and on-premise architecture.

Linkedin: [Ninad Magdum](#)

Solution Architect – AWS Certified | Snowflake Certified | DBT Certified

Azmatul Azam



Introduction

With over 12+ years in data engineering and analytics, Azmat has led complex implementations for companies like Dell, Deloitte, and Walt Disney. His specialization includes AWS, DBT, Snowflake, Data warehousing, Kafka, etc where he brings strong architecture and design expertise to production-grade data systems.

Linkedin: [Azmatul Azam](#)

Manager of Customer Success

Milada Ivanovic



Introduction

Milada combines a background in software engineering with 5+ years in customer success leadership. She supports students with SQL, data modeling, behavioral interviews, and resume crafting. Holding degrees in IT and Psychology, Milada is passionate about motivating students and helping them realize their full potential.

Onboarding Specialist & Python Coach

Tyler Vu



Introduction

With a PhD in Biostatistics from UC San Diego, Tyler has worked across healthcare and tech industries as a data scientist. At DEA, he handles onboarding and personalized learning plans while coaching students in Python fundamentals and real-world scripting.

AI and Data Science Mentor

Rishov Chatterjee



Introduction

Rishov is Director of AI at IntegraConnect, with 7+ years of experience across Siemens, City of Hope, and Pathrise. He's placed over 150 students in data roles and specializes in LLMs, data science, and career mentoring. At DEA, he helps students break into top AI and DE positions with precision.

Sr Data Engineer | AWS SME | Snowflake

PVH Kareem



Introduction

With 4+ years of experience in data engineering and cloud-based data solutions, Kareem has contributed to impactful projects involving AWS Glue, PySpark, and big data pipelines. My expertise spans across building scalable ETL workflows, automating data processing, and deploying production-ready data systems on AWS. I am passionate about translating complex data challenges into elegant, high-performance solutions.

Linkedin: [PVH Kareem](#)

AI/ML Computational Science Analyst

Meenakshi Kharwade



Introduction

Meenakshi builds conversational AI and enterprise AI tools at Accenture and NPCI. She specializes in LLMs, RAG frameworks, document parsing, and secure AI systems. With a background in engineering and advanced AI certifications, she helps DEA students bridge AI theory and practice.

Linkedin: [Meenakshi Kharwade](#)

Lead Data Engineer

Avirup Ghosh



Introduction

Avirup brings 6+ years of data engineering experience across companies like Disney, Bank of America, and Capgemini. He specializes in automations using Python, SQL, Snowflake, and Streamlit, helping students understand how modern pipelines are designed, built, and scaled in production.

Operations Lead & Job Apply Process Lead

Pooja Dodamani



Introduction

Pooja oversees the entire job application system at DEA, leading the job apply team and managing operations across SOPs, referral systems, and employer partnerships. With 5+ years of hiring experience and a background in CS and Operations, she's instrumental in driving job outcomes for students.

SQL and Data Modeling Coach

Nikola Vukovic



Introduction

Nikola specializes in foundational data engineering skills — especially SQL and relational data modeling. With a background in software engineering, he coaches students through tough SQL interviews and builds their confidence with hands-on problem-solving for real-world scenarios.

Student Success Manager (Retention)

Stefan Lojanicic



Introduction

Stefan ensures students are consistently supported, retained, and progressing through their goals. His focus is on creating seamless, guided experiences for learners from start to finish within the DEA ecosystem.

Student Success Manager (Retention)

Mary Latoza



Introduction

Mary brings cross-industry experience from tech, education, and business ops. At DEA, she supports students with interview prep, resume improvements, and career clarity — helping them confidently land roles that match their strengths and aspirations.

Customer Success Manager

Payal Dedhia



Introduction

With 20+ years in media and 8 years in edtech, Payal leads with deep operational and coaching experience. She's coached 13,000+ students, led ad campaigns for Uber and Airbnb, and built AI-powered platforms. At DEA, she helps students optimize resumes, LinkedIn, and overall job readiness.

Customer Success Manager

Yash Kantharia



Introduction

A CS graduate from Pace University, Yash blends strong technical acumen with people-focused coaching. With hands-on experience in LLMs, cloud infrastructure, data pipelines, and NLP systems, he helps students navigate both foundational and emerging technologies with confidence.

Customer Success Manager

Afnan Saeed



Introduction

With a Master's in Business Analytics and a CS background, Afnan brings both technical depth and business strategy to DEA students. She supports learners with SQL, modeling, resume help, and AI interview prep, drawing on his work with Power BI, Python, and AWS to drive real results.

Customer Success Manager

Om Gaikhe



Introduction

Om holds an MS in Data Science and brings strong academic and industry experience. He's published award-winning research at AAAI, teaches AI and ethics at Pace University, and helps DEA students master technical topics with clarity and real-world application.

Customer Success Manager

Osaki Pokima



Introduction

With a background in Cybersecurity and Computer Science, Osaki brings problem-solving and onboarding excellence to DEA. He transitioned into a sales-focused role by choice, blending his IT background with a passion for supporting learners in tech career transitions.

Senior Data Engineer | Coach

Nehal Singh



Introduction

Nehal brings in around 7 years of experience in the field of Data Engineer and specializes in a range of data engineering tools and platforms, including but not limited to Azure, SQL, Python, Pyspark, Databricks, Power BI, SSRS, and various ETL/ ELT tools. His expertise lies in building and managing robust scalable data pipelines and analytics solutions with a strong focus on Cloud Modernization and Migration initiatives. He helps DEA students in grasping technical concepts through practical, and industry level examples.

Customer Success Manager

Cristian Mamota



Introduction

With a versatile experience ranging from tech and sales to customer success, Cristian ensures that students are getting the most out of the program, have a high success rate, and makes them aware that they're in the right place to achieve their goals.

Data Engineer SME

Aniket Kar



Introduction

Lead Data Engineer at Amazon with over 10 years of expertise in building reliable data pipelines and scalable cloud solutions. Aniket has experience in developing end-to-end ETL workflows using AWS services for building batch and real-time processing pipelines. Aniket has a strong understanding of both RDBMS and NoSQL systems and he enjoys solving complex problems and enabling data-driven decisions through efficient and well-architected solutions.

Linkedin: [Aniket Kar](#)

Sr. Data Engineer

Sakthivel Somasundaram



Introduction

Senior Data Engineer with 8+ years of expertise in designing, building, and optimizing scalable data pipelines and cloud-based solutions, with specific experience in Azure & AWS services (EC2, EMR, GLUE, Lambda, ADF, Databricks, ADLS) and leveraging GenAI solutions. Passionate about architecting high-performance data platforms using Python, PySpark, SQL, Spark, Databricks, and relational databases. Adept at Data Modeling, Data Warehousing, Data Governance, Performance Optimization and real-time data processing.

Linkedin: [Sakthivel Somasundaram](#)

Cloud/DevOps/Big Data Architect and Full-Stack CloudOps Engineer

Shartul Kumar



Introduction

Experienced Cloud/DevOps/Big Data Architect and Full-Stack CloudOps Engineer with 15 years of industry experience. Specializing in architecting robust cloud solutions, implementing comprehensive DevOps strategies, and enhancing resiliency, efficiency, and performance as a Site Reliability Engineer. Possesses deep expertise in AWS, Microsoft Azure, GCP, PCF, OpenStack, OpenShift, and IBM Cloud, covering a wide array of services. Highly proficient in Kubernetes (Certified Kubernetes Administrator) including GKE, AKS, EKS, and OpenShift, with hands-on experience in Multi-Cluster Istio service mesh, OpenTelemetry, and Traffic Management & Security. Adept at Infrastructure as Code (Terraform, CloudFormation, ARM, Pulumi), SCM (Puppet, Ansible), HA/DR design, and DC Migration. Skilled in defining and improving Site Reliability Metrics (SLO/SLI), implementing Observability (Monitoring, Logging, Tracing), and streamlining release management with a focus on GitOps maturity. Strong background in Cloud Security, IAM, RBAC, and compliance policies (GDPR/PCI DSS/HIPPA).

Linkedin: [Shartul Kumar](#)

Senior Data Scientist

Vivek Mohan Srivastava



Introduction

Senior Data Scientist with 5+ years of experience enabling data-driven decision-making through advanced analytics, machine learning, and scalable data science solutions. Skilled in designing and deploying end-to-end AI/ML models across cloud platforms including Azure and AWS, with hands-on expertise in Lambda, Azure Data Factory (ADF), Databricks, and Azure Data Lake Storage (ADLS). Proficient in Python, Machine Learning, Deep Learning, and Natural Language Processing (NLP) for building robust and production-ready models.

Possesses specialized expertise in Generative AI, including Retrieval-Augmented Generation (RAG), Prompt Engineering, Agentic AI systems, and fine-tuning foundation models. Passionate about solving real-world business problems by architecting intelligent and scalable AI solutions.
