

# Samuel T. Shanks, PhD

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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>

## 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 Applications

## Career Summary

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### 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 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 Research & Ad Hoc Coursework:
  - Data Science, Machine Learning, Data Visualization, Statistics, Computer Science, Software Analysis, Robotics, Chemistry, Geology (Ind. Study – 2013-2023)
  - “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)
  - AI - Machine Learning Specialization (Coursera/Stanford AI – 2022)
  - Data Analytics - Google Data Analytics Professional Certificate (Coursera/Google – 2022)
  - Graph Data Modeling - Neo4j Certified Professional (Neo4j – 2024)
  - Graph Data Modeling - Neo4j Graph Data Science Certification (Neo4j – 2024)
- The Next Two Courses...
  - Azure Data Scientist Associate (Microsoft)
  - Senior Data Scientist certification (DASCA)