Director of AI Acceleration

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Type: Full-Time
Salary: $140,000 - $175,000 per year
Posted: 2 days ago
Category: IT Manager/Director
Director of AI Acceleration

Posting Number: JR108043
Location: Colorado

Engineering a world of possibilities
Reporting to the Chief Information Officer (CIO), the Director of AI (Artificial Intelligence) Acceleration is a key member of the Information Technology (IT) Department and Leadership Team. The Director is a proactive, self-driven leader responsible for developing and executing a transformative AI vision that moves the university into a new era of operational efficiency, innovation, and productivity. This role anticipates needs, initiates action, and shapes the institution's future by imagining, designing, and deploying cutting-edge AI solutions that drive measurable value and lasting business impact. As a strategic leader and champion for change, the Director sparks momentum, fosters cross-functional collaboration, and sets the standard for responsible and ethical AI adoption.

Leading and managing an agile team with purpose and clarity, the Director of AI Acceleration partners with executive, academic, and administrative leaders, and key stakeholders to proactively identify opportunities and accelerate implementation of agentic-AI solutions that strengthen institutional capabilities. The role consistently drives forward progress, integrates creative thinking with technical acumen, and delivers meaningful, measurable outcomes that position Mines as a leader in AI-driven transformation.

This position is currently hybrid, with the expectation that the Director will maintain campus presence a minimum number of days per week in Golden, Colorado.
VISIONARY AI STRATEGY & BUSINESS VALUE CREATION

- Envision, develop, and implement an AI strategy collaboratively with the CIO and key stakeholders that aligns with the university's mission and business, academic, and research priorities.
- Drive transformative change by identifying key opportunities for AI-powered efficiencies, cost optimization, and service excellence across university operations.

- Lead the adoption of AI solutions ensuring scalable, secure, and sustainable value delivery.
- Guide the exploration and integration of emerging AI technologies to enhance business models and advance academic excellence.
- Establish a culture of innovation by fostering experimentation, learning, and continuous improvement in AI-driven initiatives.

AI PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT, INTEGRATION & GOVERNANCE

- Champion the end-to-end lifecycle of AI product development from ideation and prototyping to deployment and iteration.
- Accelerate the adoption of cloud-based and enterprise AI services, ensuring seamless integration and alignment with business strategy.
- Adhere to the Mines AI governance policy ensuring transparency, accountability, and ethical use.
- Ensure data privacy and security best practices are followed in all solutions.
- Define and track outcome-quality measures and key performance indicators to validate accuracy, minimize hallucinations, and sustain results.
- Empower teams to translate complex AI technologies and concepts into practical solutions that drive stakeholder engagement and operational success.

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT & ORGANIZATIONAL AI FLUENCY

- Inspire and orchestrate collaboration among academic, administrative, and technical stakeholders to ensure broad alignment and buy-in for the AI vision.
- Chair AI steering committees and advisory groups, proactively seeking input, feedback, and guidance, as well as providing strategic counsel and fostering a community of practice around innovation.
- Lead the development of comprehensive AI literacy programs, training resources, and change management campaigns to elevate skills and confidence across the institution.
- Serve as a trusted advisor and visible ambassador for AI, building strong partnerships and promoting a shared vision of future success.

OPERATIONAL AND TEAM MANAGEMENT

- Lead, mentor, and develop the AI team to ensure high performance, technical excellence, and strong customer service.
- Set and communicate expectations related to service quality and customer experience.
- Recruit and retain top talent; support team growth through training and development.
- Oversee daily operations and ensure that teams prioritize work effectively to meet institutional goals.
- Foster collaboration across IT functions to support operational stability and timely project delivery.
- Forecast staffing and resource needs for ongoing operations and project commitments.

- Implement best practices for operational processes and promote continuous improvement.

Minimum Qualifications:

- Bachelor's degree from an accredited four-year institution in computer science, data science, engineering, business administration, or a related field; or equivalent advanced training and experience.
- 5+ years of progressive leadership experience in one or more of the following domains:
    - Executive product management or ownership in technology-driven organizations
    - Strategic implementation of AI, machine learning, or digital transformation initiatives
    - Business analysis, process optimization, or IT strategy
    - Data analytics, governance, or enterprise data strategy
    - Leading technology enablement or transformational programs
- Visionary leader with deep expertise in AI/ML concepts, generative AI, advanced prompt engineering, and model evaluation.
- Exceptional ability to translate innovative and complex technical ideas into actionable, high-impact strategies for multiple audiences.
- Comprehensive familiarity with cloud and enterprise AI platforms (Microsoft Azure, Google Cloud, AWS).
- Advanced knowledge of data privacy, compliance, and governance frameworks (FERPA, HIPAA, GDPR).
- Outstanding communication, negotiation, and relationship-building skills with executive and technical stakeholders.
- Proven track record of leading organizational transformation and inspiring cross-functional excellence.

Preferred Qualifications

- Master's degree in computer science, business, data science, engineering, or a related discipline.
- Experience leading AI, data-driven, or transformational initiatives in complex, regulated, or higher education environments.
- Strategic leadership within research, higher education, or public sector organizations.
- Experience designing and leading AI governance initiatives, model transparency, and risk management frameworks.
- Certified Scrum Product Owner (CSPO), Project Management Professional (PMP), Microsoft Certified: Azure AI Engineer Associate, Google Cloud Professional Machine Learning Engineer, or Certified Analytics Professional (CAP)
- Fluency in advanced AI/ML development, including model evaluation, prompt design, and iterative testing.

- Expertise in AIOps tools and practices for continuous integration, monitoring, and optimization of AI systems.
- In-depth knowledge of Microsoft 365 Copilot, Google Gemini, and other enterprise AI platforms.
- Proficiency in Agile methodologies, strategic product management, and transformational leadership.

Salary and Benefits

$140,000 - $175,000 annual salary

Mines takes into consideration a combination of candidate's education, training and experience as well as the position's scope and complexity, the discretion and latitude required in the role, work location, and external market and internal value when determining a salary level for potential new employees.

Colorado School of Mines offers a robust portfolio of benefits for all employees. For this role, that includes:

- Flexible health and dental care options
- Generous sick/vacation time: 13 paid holidays per year - including a week-long winter break for entire campus.
- Fully vested retirement plan on first day of employment, with generous employer contribution
- Tuition benefits (6 credits per year for employees, 50 percent discount for dependents)
- Free RTD Ecopass

All Mines employees also have access to discount programs through the State of Colorado and free tickets for Mines Athletics home games, as well as access to the state of the art Recreation Center (fitness classes and training, swimming pool and more) and equipment rentals through the Outdoor Rec Center. We are proud to have recently opened an on campus daycare center. For more details about benefits at Mines, visit mines.edu/human-resources/benefits.

How to Apply

Complete an online application (personal information, demographic information, veteran status)

- Upload a resume or CV
- Upload a cover letter

Candidates must be currently authorized to work in the United States. Visa sponsorship is not available for this position.

This posting may be used to fill more than one vacancy based on business needs.

References will not be contacted until later in the selection process and you will be informed before that contact is made.

Application review will begin February 2, 2026. This posting will close February 1, 2026 at 11:59 p.m.

It is the intent of Mines to comply with the applicable requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act of 2008, and their implementation rules and regulations, in support of equal opportunities for qualified applicants with disabilities. To meet this goal, Mines will make reasonable accommodations during the employment selection process and within our working environment.

If you are a qualified individual with a disability or a disabled veteran, you may request a reasonable accommodation if you are unable or limited in your ability to access job openings or apply for a job on our site as a result of your disability. You can request a reasonable accommodation by contacting our Human Resources team at hr@mines.edu or 303.273.3250 for assistance.

Successful Completion of a Background Investigation is Required for this Position.

About Mines & Golden, CO

When the world looks for answers, the world looks to Mines.

Colorado School of Mines is a top-ranked public university solving the grand challenges facing our society, particularly those related to the Earth, energy and the environment. Founded in 1874 with specialties in mining and metallurgy, Mines' scope and mission have continually expanded to meet the needs of industry and society. Today, we are the No. 36 public university in the nation, recognized for our innovation and undergraduate teaching in science, technology engineering and math (U.S. News and World Report, 2025).

Mines graduates are change makers, boundary breakers and problem solvers. Since our earliest days, a Mines education has been and continues to be a transformational opportunity, with one of the strongest returns on investment out there for talented STEM students of all backgrounds.

At the same time, Mines faculty members are pushing their fields in new directions, whether that's manufacturing, space resources, quantum engineering, carbon capture or more. Mines was recently classified as a R1 "Very High Activity" research institution by Carnegie, a notable feat for any university but particularly one of our size.

That size - roughly 8,200 undergraduate and graduate students - also translates to a close-knit campus community, where employees have opportunities to get involved in multiple ways, continued professional learning is valued and everyone can make an impact.

Community Alliance groups bring together employees for professional development, networking, and community involvement, and all Mines employees also have access to the wealth of activities happening every day on campus - nationally-renowned speakers, special events and Mines traditions like Engineering Days, just to name a few.

And don't get us started on our hometown. We are located in the heart of Golden, Colorado --with its charming historic downtown and nearby hiking trails - and in close proximity to all that Denver and the Rocky Mountains have to offer. That includes the sunny, high-altitude climate and outstanding outdoor recreation opportunities that make the Denver area an ideal place to live, work and play.

Are you looking for an inspiring, mission-driven workplace where you can contribute to solving the world's problems and educating the next generation of change makers? Are you an individual who values a community where our individual perspectives and experiences enrich the educational and work experience?

Look to Mines.

Equal Opportunity

Colorado School of Mines is committed to equal opportunity for all persons. Mines does not discriminate on the basis of age, sex, gender (including gender identity and gender expression), ancestry, creed, marital status, race, ethnicity, religion, national origin, disability, sexual orientation, genetic information, veteran status or current military service. Further, Mines does not retaliate against community members for filing complaints regarding or implicating any of these protected statuses.

Mines' commitment to nondiscrimination, equal opportunity and equal access is reflected in the administration of its policies, procedures, programs and activities and in its efforts to achieve a talented student body and workforce.

Through its policies, procedures and resources, Mines complies with federal law, Colorado state law, administrative regulations, executive orders and other legal requirements to prevent discrimination (including harassment or retaliation) within the Mines campus community and to address potential allegations of inequality or concerns for safety.

Colorado's premier engineering and applied science university for 150 years and counting

Apply online at https://mines.wd1.myworkdayjobs.com/en-US/Mines_Careers/job/Colorado/Director-of-AI-Acceleration_JR108043

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