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Ladders Hiring Team

Re: Director, AI Engineering

Dear Ladders Hiring Team,

Leading AI engineering from technical vision through production support closely matches how I have built platforms, developed teams, and operated intelligent systems at scale.

At Intelligent DataWorks, I architected and built the AssistX core and first 80% of its initial application using Python, FastAPI, LLMs, RAG, agents, PostgreSQL/PGVector, APIs, and AWS. I then technically led 11 engineers while continuing to own architecture, releases, security, cloud operations, and support. The platform runs 70+ automations across more than 20 workflows with 99.9% availability.

I established model routing, cost controls, evaluation, guardrails, human oversight, observability, and build-versus-buy practices for its foundational AI capabilities. At AWS, I advised more than 200 enterprises on AI/ML and cloud architecture and developed specialist communities totaling 180+ professionals. At MassMutual, I led Responsible AI, privacy, IAM, and auditability initiatives.

Intelligent DataWorks is pursuing a strategic acquisition, and I am seeking a long-term operating role elsewhere. I would welcome a discussion about building scalable AI foundations, developing exceptional engineering talent, and moving high-value AI products reliably from design into sustained production.

Sincerely,

Keith Steward, Ph.D.