

Application: 4381

Sai Sharanya Nalla

Page: General Information
Provide information about the company to be considered for the award. If you will be nominating an individual, specify the nominee's employer.
Name of Organization/Company NIKE INC
Additional Contacts I do not wish to list additional contacts
Page: Entry Information
Entry Title Sai Sharanya Nalla
Category E11. Employee of the Year - Artificial Intelligence
Employee Nominee Submission Format Written Answers
a. Briefly describe the nominated non-executive person's employer: the organization's history and past performance (up to 200 words). Required <p>Nike, Inc., originally founded as Blue Ribbon Sports on January 25, 1964, by Bill Bowerman and Phil Knight. The company officially became Nike, Inc. in 1971, Nike's early success was driven by its innovative approach to athletic footwear, notably the introduction of the "waffle sole," which Bowerman created using a waffle iron. This innovation significantly improved traction and performance for runners, helping to establish Nike as a leading brand in the sportswear industry. The company continued to expand its product line and market presence through strategic endorsements and sponsorships with high-profile athletes, including Michael Jordan, whose Air Jordan line became a cultural phenomenon.</p> <p>Nike has demonstrated robust financial performance over the decades. In 1980, Nike went public, and its revenue has grown exponentially. For the fiscal year 2023, Nike reported revenues of \$51.2 billion, a 10% increase from the previous year. The company's net income was \$5.1 billion, highlighting its profitability and market strength. Nike's market capitalization consistently exceeds \$150 billion, reflecting its strong position in the global market.</p> <p>Nike's strategic focus on innovation, marketing, and sustainability continues to drive its growth. The company's influence extends beyond sports, shaping fashion and cultural trends worldwide.</p>
b. Outline the nominated non-executive employee's achievements since the beginning of 2022 that you wish to bring to the judges' attention (up to 250 words). Required <p>In Sai's current role at Nike, as a Principal Data Scientist Personalized Sport Activity Data Science Director where she leads the Data Science work for Nike Running Club (NRC) and Nike Training Club (NTC) apps, additionally she is also leading a R&D team in the field of Fitness & Wellbeing. Sai is spearheading the design and development of Nike's very first 'AI Coach'</p> <p>1 AI Coaching Engine Design: Collaborating with Nike's trainers and coaches, Sai designed the methodology for the AI Coaching Engine, pioneering a novel and groundbreaking approach. By leveraging athlete performance, history, preferences, baseline, mental capabilities and fitness level, this system generates personalized coaching recommendations and dynamic training plans, enhancing athletic development while minimizing injury risks.</p> <p>2 AI Coaching Engine Productionalization: Sai lead a team of ML Engineers to build event driven MLOps pipelines for within AWS environment. this work is yet to be impact over 3 million customers and projected to generate a revenue of \$20M in two years.</p> <p>3 Regulated Machine Learning Framework - Sai developed the RegML (Regulatory Machine Learning Framework) application, now used by AWS teams to demonstrate potential to HCLS (Health Care & Life Sciences) clients. This authoritative whitepaper is publicly available under the AWS ML Whitepapers section, influencing industry standards and practices.</p> <p>4 MLOps Best Practices Whitepaper - She authored a comprehensive whitepaper detailing nuanced approaches to Machine Learning in regulated environments, serving as a guide for best practices using AWS products and elaborating on architectural design principles for reproducible, traceable, and auditable MLOps systems.</p>

c. Explain why the achievements you have highlighted are unique or significant. If possible compare the achievements to the performance of other employees or to other workers in your industry and/or to the nominee's past performance (up to 250 words). Required

In the realm of sports and wellness, athletes require more than just data tracking to achieve peak performance. Recognizing this need, Sai's AI coaching engine that stands out by offering personalized guidance integrating physical activities, mindfulness content, and load management. Unlike traditional activity apps that focus primarily on tracking metrics, this innovative system delivers actionable recommendations to enhance both physical and mental well-being. This guidance-based approach helps athletes understand the rationale behind their training programs, making it a comprehensive tool for optimizing performance. This is the very first 'AI Coach' that is guidance based and focuses on holistic wellness.

Sai's RegML Framework, was applied at a leading healthcare customer, her solution achieved remarkable results, surpassing production goals and yielding significant improvements:

- Auditability increased from 2-3% to 100%
- Model performance boosted to over 95% accuracy and 98% recall
- Deployment costs reduced by 54% from \$650K to \$300K annually

Sai's MLOps whitepaper empowered over 30 AWS Data Scientists to build upon her solution, resulting in:

- 30% enhanced productivity
- Accelerated development times
- Fostered collaboration and shared success

Her solution's broad adoption led to:

- \$6M in secured SOWs
- 4 new customers acquired

She led training sessions for 20+ AWS Sales and Compliance teams in HCLS and FSI fields, educating them on compliance ML conversations. She demonstrated the potential of MLOps solutions for their use cases, enabling Sales teams to lead independent conversations with customers, driving further innovation and growth.

d. Reference any attachments of supporting materials throughout this nomination and how they provide evidence of the claims you have made in this nomination (up to 250 words). Optional

Beyond technical innovations, Sai is a dedicated mentor and advocate for technology and AI. She has spoken at prestigious events like's Level Up Labs and lectured at Georgetown University. Her talk at AWS re:Invent reached a large audience, and she has published over a dozen blogs in Medium and AWS ML Blogs. Sai won Titan Award 2024 in AI category and The Visionaries Award 2023 from the Internet2.0 Conference in Las Vegas and served as a judge for the Globee 2024 Information Technology Awards. More information on my website link - <https://linktr.ee/sharanyanalla>

Webpage Link

<https://docs.aws.amazon.com/whitepapers/latest/ml-best-practices-healthcare-life-sciences/provision-a-secure-and-gxp-compliant-machine-learning-environment.html>
(<https://docs.aws.amazon.com/whitepapers/latest/ml-best-practices-healthcare-life-sciences/provision-a-secure-and-gxp-compliant-machine-learning-environment.html>)

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<https://aws.amazon.com/blogs/machine-learning/whitepaper-machine-learning-best-practices-in-healthcare-and-life-sciences/> (<https://aws.amazon.com/blogs/machine-learning/whitepaper-machine-learning-best-practices-in-healthcare-and-life-sciences/>)

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<https://membership.anitab.org/events/EventDetails.aspx?id=1615808&group=232199> (<https://membership.anitab.org/events/EventDetails.aspx?id=1615808&group=232199>)

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<https://www.linkedin.com/events/2022vancouverwomenindatascience6900145909397630977/about/>
(<https://www.linkedin.com/events/2022vancouverwomenindatascience6900145909397630977/about/>)

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<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3JqGWfIU1Gc> (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3JqGWfIU1Gc>)

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Web Page Link 6

https://www.linkedin.com/posts/sharanyanalla_ml-mlops-speaker-activity-6862135684057055232-5y99?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop
(https://www.linkedin.com/posts/sharanyanalla_ml-mlops-speaker-activity-6862135684057055232-5y99?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop)

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Web Page Link 7

https://www.linkedin.com/posts/sharanyanalla_machinelearning-artificialintelligence-event-activity-6866792479543304193-p0hD?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop
(https://www.linkedin.com/posts/sharanyanalla_machinelearning-artificialintelligence-event-activity-6866792479543304193-p0hD?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop)

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Supporting Document

Download File (https://stevies-tech.secure-platform.com/file/66738/eyJ0eXAiOiJKV1QiLCJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJtZWRpYUlkIjo2Njc0OCwiYWxs3dOb3RTaWduZWRVcmwiOiJGYWxzZSI6ImInbm9yJmVDACEOeV1Vrtim_uxX-U?e-certificate.pdf)

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