During this week’s class, we heard from three UWM alumni who are employed in what most would consider to be “atypical” jobs in the private sector. Far from being atypical, however, private-sector jobs account for about a third of all atmospheric science jobs and represent the most-rapidly growing employer within the field!

Dr. Ali Ahmadalipour, an Earth computational scientist who is the Principal Data Scientist with KatRisk LLC (a catastrophe modeling company), recently published an article on his Geospatial Jobs Substack called “200+ companies hiring for geospatial data science roles.” Included among these are companies focused on weather forecasting, climate modeling, risk assessment and catastrophe modeling, insurance, and more.

For the first part of this week’s assignment, you are to choose one of the companies listed in the article linked above that has business operations in weather and/or climate. Once you have chosen a company, review their website, LinkedIn page, and LinkedIn profiles of their employees (if available) to learn what it is they do in weather and/or climate. Finally, create a 30-second elevator pitch to share (1) how does weather and/or climate impact this company’s operations and (2) how are atmospheric scientists employed by the company to protect their weather- and/or climate-sensitive operations. A guide to effective elevator pitches is included with this week’s module on Canvas to help you organize your thoughts.

Your elevator pitch may be written out, or you may choose to record it. If you choose to record it, you are welcome to do audio-only or to include a video. Whatever delivery method you choose, I encourage you to be creative! A TikTok-style video that meets the elevator pitch criteria could fit the bill, although it is certainly not the only way to answer creatively!

For the second part of this week’s assignment, you are to create a LinkedIn profile for yourself. You profile should include your name, your current position (e.g., Student or job title if you are working a job), a short “About” statement, your Experience (i.e., work history), your Education (to the present), and any Skills that you have developed. If you already have a LinkedIn profile, make sure that it contains all of this information – you do not need to create another profile.

Once you have created this profile, send me a follower request and post your profile’s address to the Canvas discussion forum for this assignment. You must create your profile, send me a follower request, and share your profile’s address via Canvas to fully complete this portion of the assignment. After you submit your assignment, I encourage you to use the profile links collected on Canvas to send follower requests to your classmates to help grow your network!