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Center for Rural AI Names Jason Strickland Head of Technology

Systems and data-architecture leader will steer CRAI's technical foundations and its work on AI memory and institutional knowledge.

DURANGO, Colo. — The Center for Rural AI (CRAI) today announced that Jason Strickland has been named Head of Technology. In the role, Strickland will lead CRAI's technical architecture, data governance, and the design of the AI operating systems that power the organization's programs — including its growing work on AI memory and institutional knowledge.

Strickland joined CRAI working on systems governance, helping the team turn big ideas into clear maps, practical workflows, and durable foundations. He brings experience leading complex systems, data, governance, and technology transformation across growing organizations. More recently, his work has centered on digital transformation, product data governance, and agentic AI operating systems — multi-agent workflows, knowledge bases, planning gates, and safety protocols that turn AI from a single tool into a repeatable operating layer. That focus maps directly to CRAI's next phase, as the organization builds the technical infrastructure behind its research, training, and pilot programs for rural communities.

Andrew Aitken, Founder and Executive Director of CRAI, said Strickland's promotion reflects both what he has already built and where the organization is headed:

"Jason brings an exceptional command of data architecture, plus a development discipline and innovative mindset that raise the bar for everyone around him. His work on AI memory is changing how we think about institutional knowledge at CRAI — systems that let an organization retain and build on what it learns. He's exactly the builder our mission needs, and putting him at the head of our technology will help get our foundations right."

— Andrew Aitken, Founder & Executive Director

Strickland steps into the role as CRAI expands its technical work across research, applied AI tools, and community pilots, and continues building the distributed infrastructure that will help rural and tribal institutions serve as regional AI knowledge hubs.

About the Center for Rural AI

The Center for Rural AI (CRAI), a nonprofit fiscally sponsored by the Community Serving Southwest Colorado, provides distributed AI enablement resources and services to communities across the United States. We provide open curricula, shared computing resources, enablement services, and community incubators that transform rural communities into AI creators and owners. Learn more at www.ruralai.org.

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