

Ryan L. Buchanan

Instructional Designer & Technologist | Director, Coastal AI Learning Accelerator (CALA)
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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Instructional design and learning technologies specialist with more than 15 years of experience across higher education, military, and international learning environments. Expert in online and hybrid course design (Canvas), AI-enhanced curriculum development, faculty professional development, and software engineering in multiple languages (Python, C#, Java, SQL, HTML). Extensive background in curriculum redesign, technology integration, VR-based demonstrations, and cross-cultural teaching in the U.S., Saudi Arabia, and China.

Following the conclusion of an early VR-focused educational technology venture in 2020, I intentionally pivoted toward artificial intelligence and machine learning, completing a Master's degree in Data Analytics in recognition of AI's emerging role as a foundational shift in education, workforce development, and professional practice. I currently support institution-wide AI-resilient assessment design, AI literacy initiatives, faculty training, and responsible AI tool implementation for teaching, learning, and operations.

AI LEADERSHIP & INSTRUCTION

- Director, Coastal AI Learning Accelerator (CALA) — institutional AI pilot initiative
- Instructor and facilitator for AI literacy and AI-enhanced curriculum design workshops
- Designer of AI Ethics curriculum for higher-education and workforce contexts
- Developer of AI-resilient assessment frameworks for English and mathematics
- Institutional advisor on responsible AI adoption, faculty training, and governance
- Experience translating AI concepts for non-technical faculty and students

EDUCATION

M.S., Data Analytics
Western Governors University, 2022

Computer Programming Certificate (C#)
Ogden-Weber Technical College, 2023

M.Ed., Educational Psychology (Instructional Design)
University of Utah, 2018

Master of Business Administration (MBA)
Humboldt State University, 2005

B.S., English and Psychology
Weber State University, 2000

CERTIFICATIONS & PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

CELTA – Certificate in English Language Teaching to Adults
Cambridge University / Cambridge English

CompTIA IT Fundamentals+ (ITF+)
CompTIA – Issued September 2023

Programming Foundations: Databases
LinkedIn Learning – February 2021

PostgreSQL Essential Training
LinkedIn Learning – January 2021

Data Science Foundations: Fundamentals
LinkedIn Learning – December 2020

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

- Instructional Design and Course Development (Canvas)
- AI-Enhanced Curriculum and Assessment
- Software Engineering (Python, C#, Java, SQL, HTML)
- Professional Development & Faculty Training
- VR Demonstrations and Emerging EdTech
- Curriculum Redesign & Technology Integration
- Cross-Cultural Pedagogy
- Data Analytics & Learning Improvement
- AI-Resilient Assessment Design

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Instructional Designer & Technologist | Director, Coastal AI Learning Accelerator

Coastal Alabama Community College – Center for Teaching & Learning

September 2025 – Present | 40 hours/week

Supervisor: Available upon request

- Lead Canvas master course builds, templates, and instructional resources for faculty across all campuses.
- Lead the Coastal AI Learning Accelerator (CALA), the institution's AI pilot initiative focused on AI literacy, ethical AI use, and AI-resilient assessment design.
- Design and deliver faculty professional development on AI-enhanced curriculum design, AI literacy, prompt engineering, and responsible classroom AI use.
- Develop and coordinate AI literacy instructional modules for faculty and students across disciplines, including foundational English and mathematics.
- Design AI-resilient assessments that preserve academic integrity while leveraging AI as a learning support tool.
- Lead the development of an AI Ethics course framework, integrating transparency, bias awareness, and responsible AI practices aligned with higher-education guidance.
- Advise academic leadership on AI policy, governance, and tool evaluation for teaching, learning, and institutional operations.
- Collaborate with regional and national partners on scalable AI education initiatives and workforce-aligned AI training models.
- Provide technical support for instructional tools (Canvas, Microsoft 365, Teams, multimedia platforms).

Program Mentor - Computer Science

Western Governors University

September 2024 – April 2025 | 40 hours/week

- Provided one-on-one academic mentoring to Computer Science students, supporting degree planning, study strategies, and milestone achievement in a competency-based program.
- Monitored student progress and analytics dashboards to identify risks and conduct targeted outreach through phone, SMS, email, and video sessions.
- Helped learners navigate foundational CS concepts, programming environments, virtual labs, and course expectations at an advising level.
- Oriented new students to WGU's systems, competency model, and BSCS program requirements, ensuring smooth onboarding and early engagement.
- Documented all student interactions and academic progress in WGU systems to support institutional reporting and quality assurance.

Founder & Instructional Designer

VR Dev Kids LLC, Salt Lake City, UT

January 2016 – January 2022 | Full-time

- Developed VR development curricula for K–12 and adult learners.
- Delivered VR Dev Kids demonstrations and workshops for diverse U.S. organizations, including Hill Air Force Base youth initiatives, summer boot camps, and educational conferences.
- Produced multimedia learning activities integrating VR, AI, and emerging technologies.
- Provided technology support and systems design for LMS environments, presentation systems, and networking infrastructure.

Web Developer & IT Support Specialist

My Hometown Ogden Community Center, UT

June 2022 – Present | On-call

- Managed Office 365 systems, digital access platforms, and technical support operations.
- Delivered training in digital literacy and e-learning tools.
- Troubleshoot technology issues across multiple communication channels.

Microsoft 365 Tech Support Ambassador

Education at Work / Microsoft, Salt Lake City, UT

February 2022 – May 2022 | Full-time

- Handled high-volume Microsoft 365 support inquiries.
- Built support documentation improving end-user resolution times.
- Collaborated with technical teams on improving customer support workflows.

Technical Instructor & Technology Integration Specialist

Raytheon, Saudi Arabia

2015 | Full-time

- Led curriculum redesign and technology integration for technical English programs serving multinational learners.
- Delivered instructor training in digital tools, educational technology, and instructional best practices.
- Provided on-site technology troubleshooting and curriculum support.

Curriculum Specialist & Technology Integration Consultant

Partner Institutions – China

2007 – 2012

- Redesigned English and technical curricula for partner colleges.
- Provided cultural awareness training for students and faculty involved in international programs.
- Guided faculty teams in the adoption and integration of educational technologies.

Specialist Linguist – Arabic & French

United States Army, Defense Language Institute (DLI), Monterey, CA

Dates Available Upon Request

- Completed advanced Arabic and French linguistic and cultural training.
- Trained in cross-cultural communication strategies aligned with mission requirements.

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Software Engineering

Python, C#, Java, SQL, HTML/CSS

Data & Automation

Power BI, Tableau, Excel (advanced), SQL, Python, Power Automate

AI & EdTech Tools

OpenAI API, Claude, Gemini, NotebookLM, Gamma, OBS, Synthesia

LMS & Learning Platforms

Canvas, Moodle, custom LMS environments

Multimedia Production

Canva, Clipchamp, Adobe Express, Screencasting Tools

SELECTED INTERNATIONAL & CROSS-CULTURAL EXPERIENCE

Saudi Arabia

Curriculum redesign and technology integration for technical English programs supporting military and vocational learners.

China

Curriculum redesign, technology integration, and cultural awareness training for students and faculty.

United States

VR Dev Kids demonstrations and workshops for youth organizations, military-connected programs, and educational conferences.

REFERENCES

Available upon request.