

RYAN L. BUCHANAN

AI Systems Architect | Instructional Design Leader

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PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

Results-driven AI Systems Architect and Instructional Design Leader with over 15 years of expertise across higher education, workforce development, and international technical training. Specialized in leading human-centered AI adoption, designing scalable learning experience frameworks, and engineering agentic workflows. Proven track record in transforming curricula through emerging technologies, including VR/AR and generative AI, to improve instructional effectiveness and learner engagement in complex organizational environments.

TECHNICAL AND INSTRUCTIONAL EXPERTISE

AI / EdTech: OpenAI API, Claude, Gemini, Microsoft Copilot, NotebookLM, Prompt Engineering, AI Governance, AI Literacy Training, Agentic Workflows, LLM Evaluation.

Development / Data: Python, C#, Java, SQL, HTML/CSS, Power BI, Tableau, Excel (Advanced), Power Automate, Data Analytics.

Learning Platforms: Canvas LMS Administration, Moodle, Microsoft 365, Teams, Instructional Design (ADDIE/SAM), Assessment Design, Change Management.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

FOUNDER & AI SYSTEMS ARCHITECT | Ridian Technologies

2025 – Present

- Architected Piper Teaching, an AI-supported math reflection platform enhancing conceptual understanding and teacher instructional planning.
- Engineer human-centered AI workflows and agentic assistants to automate high-frequency administrative and educational tasks.
- Consult with higher education leadership to establish AI governance, policy frameworks, and responsible implementation strategies.

INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNOLOGIST, DIRECTOR, COASTAL AI LEARNING ACCELERATOR | Coastal Alabama Community College

September 2025 – Present

- Orchestrate institution-wide AI pilot programs to improve faculty productivity and student AI literacy across multiple campuses.
- Design AI-resilient assessment frameworks that integrate generative AI as a constructive learning support tool while upholding integrity.
- Standardize Canvas master course development and instructional templates to enhance delivery consistency and accessible digital workflows.

PROGRAM MENTOR, COMPUTER SCIENCE | Western Governors University

September 2024 – April 2025

- Guided 100+ students through competency-based learning pathways in Computer Science, improving persistence and graduation metrics.
- Leveraged data analytics dashboards to proactively identify at-risk students and deploy targeted coaching interventions.

FOUNDER & INSTRUCTIONAL DESIGNER | VR Dev Kids LLC

January 2016 – January 2022

- Developed immersive K-12 curricula focused on virtual reality and emerging technologies, fostering hands-on technical skills.
- Delivered high-impact EdTech workshops for schools and youth programs, reaching hundreds of learners and educators.

TECHNICAL INSTRUCTOR & INTEGRATION SPECIALIST | Raytheon (Saudi Arabia)

2015 – 2015

- Spearheaded curriculum redesign and technology integration for multinational technical English programs.
- Facilitated faculty development sessions on digital pedagogy and educational technology adoption in high-stakes environments.

CURRICULUM SPECIALIST & CONSULTANT | Partner Institutions (China)

2007 – 2012

- Modernized technical curricula for higher education institutions, aligning learning outcomes with global industry standards.
- Directed cross-cultural training programs and guided faculty teams through large-scale technology adoption cycles.

SPECIALIST LINGUIST | United States Army

Prior to 2007

- Completed intensive advanced language and cultural training in Arabic and French at the Defense Language Institute.
- Applied strategic communication and analytical leadership within mission-critical environments.

EDUCATION AND CERTIFICATIONS

M.S., Data Analytics | Western Governors University

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

Master of Business Administration (MBA) | Humboldt State University

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

CELTA (Cambridge); CompTIA IT Fundamentals+; C# Programming (OWTC); PostgreSQL Essential Training; Data Science Foundations.

PUBLICATIONS & PRESENTATIONS

- Artificial Intelligence in Higher Education: Practical AI for Educators
- Prompt Engineering for Teaching and Learning: Responsible Adoption
- Generative AI for Workforce Development & Faculty Development