

April Carden

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Summary

I never planned to work in tech, but I found my passion in QA. Starting as a **manual tester**, I worked my way up to **building automation teams, leading holistic testing strategies, and mentoring engineers**. Now, as a **QA Advocate and Engineering Leader**, I specialize in **risk-based testing, observability-driven quality, and ensuring quality is built into every stage of software development**.

I believe testing isn't just about **catching bugs**—it's about **building resilient systems, enabling teams to deliver with confidence, and fostering a culture where quality is a shared responsibility**.

- **Holistic Testing | Risk-Based & Exploratory Testing**
 - **Test Automation | CI/CD Quality | Observability-Driven QA**
 - **QA Leadership | Mentorship | Building Quality-First Teams**
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Experience

LCvista | Quality Engineering Manager & Holistic Test Strategy Lead

June 2022 – Present

- **Led the transformation from manual-heavy regression testing to an automated strategy**, reducing regression test execution time from **2.5 days to 20 minutes (99.4% decrease)**.
- **Integrated testing into CI/CD and post-deployment observability**, enabling continuous quality feedback loops.
- **Developed risk-based and exploratory testing processes**, improving efficiency and coverage.
- **Advocated for quality as a shared responsibility**, working cross-functionally with QA, Dev, Ops & Product.

Key Impact:

- Accelerated release cycles by eliminating regression bottlenecks, enabling faster, safer deployments.
 - Increased test efficiency, allowing the team to focus more on automation & strategic quality initiatives.
 - Presented quality strategy to engineering leadership, shaping test culture across teams.
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Clair | UAT Project Manager (Product & Technical Integration Lead)

February 2022 – April 2022

- Led and coached a UAT team, managing workloads, training, and performance evaluations.
- Developed UAT strategies for third-party integrations, API validation, and partner onboarding.
- Optimized go-to-market processes, ensuring feature releases met performance benchmarks & compliance requirements.

Key Impact:

- Streamlined the onboarding process for third-party integrations, reducing friction and improving partner experience.
 - Enhanced go-to-market efficiency by refining UAT processes, ensuring smoother feature releases with minimal post-launch issues.
 - Improved API adoption and usability by collaborating with external partners to refine documentation and testing workflows.
 - Strengthened collaboration across Product, Engineering, and external stakeholders, ensuring seamless integration success.
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Terryberry | QA Manager (Product Strategy & Engineering Leadership)

July 2013 – January 2022

- Led & developed a high-performing team of QA Engineers, coaching them on automation, strategy, and career growth.
- Influenced company-wide quality culture, ensuring cross-functional teams align on best practices.
- Partnered with Product & Engineering to define feature requirements, ensuring business alignment and technical feasibility.
- Drove product automation initiatives, transitioning from 100% manual testing to 90% automated coverage.

- Owned feature testing strategy, validating acceptance criteria, defining success metrics, and ensuring seamless user experiences.
- Collaborated with Product teams to prioritize bug fixes and feature development, improving release efficiency and stability.

Key Impact:

- Increased team efficiency by 45%, shifting from manual to automated testing and streamlining release cycles.
 - Developed & implemented a career development framework, leading to multiple team promotions & internal leadership growth.
 - Strengthened product reliability, ensuring 95% defect reduction post-release through enhanced quality strategies.
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Certifications

- Certified ScrumMaster (CSM) | Scrum Alliance

Education

- Full-Stack Developer Bootcamp | SheCodes
- Juris Doctor (J.D.) | Western Michigan University Cooley Law School
- B.S. Marketing Management | Davenport University