

# Chris Colatos, MSc, ACT, FAHE

Education & Academic Thought Leader

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San Francisco Bay Area/Remote



## SUMMARY

Three decades transforming vision into action as an impactful senior education leader, project manager, and strategist, building collaborative, high-performing teams and fostering inclusive work cultures. Highly proficient in project management principles and practices. Extensive experience training and leading projects involving college staff, faculty, and students. Advanced knowledge of computing, digital content production, Learning Management Systems, and Content Management Systems. Excelling in leadership positions overseeing academic teams, projects, programs, and accessible and inclusive learning design departments.

## EXPERIENCE

Chief Learning Officer (2017 – Present)

### Unforgettable Learning

- Champion leadership and program development through data-informed, focused teaching and learning experiences, strategies, curricula, assessments, analytics, and technology.
- Own the overall design, development, and execution of learning and development initiatives for staff employees.
- Manage end-to-end program operations, including budget, communications, program delivery, and evaluation.
- Develop and maintain learning solutions that satisfy the needs of a diverse set of learners (instructor-led videos, online courses, quick reference guides, job aids, and performance support).
- Work closely with subject matter experts (SMEs), external vendors, and colleagues to create and evaluate innovative and effective learning solutions.
- Develop design documents, storyboards, scripts, media lists, and assessment tools.
- Translate content into visual descriptions (graphics, animations, interactive charts and graphs, video-based scenarios).
- Drive effective project management in all projects by identifying scope, key stakeholders, and RACI.
- Perform learning-needs analysis and prescribe appropriate learning experiences to close performance gaps.
- Enable career path development by identifying relevant competencies, helping employees set career goals, and managing career expectations.

Director of Learning Design, North America (2020 – 2022)

Chair of Curriculum Design, North America (2015 – 2019)

### SAE Institute, North America

- Founded the Learning Design department for the North America system of 7 colleges.
- Led learning designers and learning media developers to develop and implement creative arts higher education teaching and active learning applications.
- Served as the institutional specialist for online and hybrid learning.
- Led academic and instructional innovation initiatives with emerging technology.
- Integrated learning design in the curriculum development of new academic programs and the enhancement of legacy programs.
- Leveraged new LMS and learning platforms to optimize student engagement.
- Acted as a culture champion by creating opportunities for growth and communication.

## HIGHLIGHTS

Owned the vision and development of a new Learning Design department serving 7 colleges; created 400+ learning experiences in the first 6 months while establishing the department and team from the ground up.

Founded a grassroots community-focused organization, which regularly trained 40 Pixar artists and thousands of technologists, artists, and professionals.

Volunteer Instructional Designer at After-School All-Stars; developed robust arts programs in underserved communities.

## EDUCATION

MASTER OF SCIENCE, DIGITAL  
EDUCATION (Hons)  
The University of Edinburgh

BACHELOR OF APPLIED SCIENCE,  
SOUND ARTS (Hons)  
Ex'pression Center for New Media

CERTIFICATE, IT PROGRAM MANAGER:  
ACCESSIBLE SYSTEMS & TECHNOLOGY  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security

CERTIFICATE, COMPUTATIONAL  
THINKING FOR PROBLEM-SOLVING  
University of Pennsylvania

LEARNING ANALYTICS: PROCESS AND  
THEORY  
Columbia University

INTELLIGENT AUDIO SYSTEMS  
Stanford University

CREATIVE CODING  
Gray Area Foundation for the Arts

CERTIFICATE, ALGORITHMIC COMPUTER  
MUSIC (WACM)  
University of California, Santa Cruz

## SKILLS

Problem-Solving  
Strategic Planning  
Scheduling & Reporting  
Program Development  
Organizational Strategy  
New Organization Initiation  
Communication/Presenting  
Creating & Executing Budgets  
Data Analysis & Meaning-Making  
Leading Academic Projects & Teams  
P&L Ownership/Business Operations  
Teaching, Training, & Development  
Fostering Collaboration & High Morale  
Cross-Functional Project Management  
Efficient & Effective Project Actualization

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## EXPERIENCE

Director of Education (2018 – 2021)  
Academic Programs Chair (2010 – 2018)  
Executive Director, Professional Training (2008 – 2014)  
Program Development Manager (2009 – 2012)  
Academic Course Director / Assistant Professor (2002 – 2010)

### **SAE Expression College**

- Owned the vision and performance for all academic and student affairs within the campus.
- Hired and mentored 70+ Program Chairs, administrators, and faculty, supporting thousands of students.
- Represented the college and built internal and external federal, state, and local regulatory, accreditation, and community partnerships.
- Created a multi-year strategy to design and implement student-centered active education programs and increase student success from matriculation to graduation and into careers.
- Developed structures for regular data reflection on organizational and student progress and identifying opportunities for action.
- Collaborated cross-functionally to highlight innovation and drive change management across the organization.

### **Chief Creative (1993 – Present)**

#### **THE STUDI/O**

- Lead the organizational strategy, vision, and creative direction.
- Serve as the principal consultant and primary liaison to support the goals of hundreds of artists and organizations.
- Drive the planning, project management, and delivery of solutions spanning music and sound, games, interactive media, AR/VR, mixed media composition, design, performance, and installation.
- 200+ producing, recording, mixing, mastering, design, AR/VR, and game credits.
- Partner and producer for high-profile brands, including Apple, Google, LeapFrog, Honor Code, Legends The Game, Robot Invader, Eagle Games, OtoCast, Ableton, Universal Audio, Tarpan Studios, Twisted Tools, iZotope, PETA, Stardust Brands, Harbor Picture Company, GQ, Salvatore Ferragamo, and Vogue.
- Deliver top-quality music and audio production for globally recognized artists, including Greg Pillinganes, Siedah Garrett, Narada Michael Walden, James Taylor, Carole King, Smokey Robinson, Billy Joel, Sting, Elton John, and Katy Perry.

### **Lecturer & Instructional Designer (2012 – 2015)**

#### **San Francisco State University**

- Faculty Instructor and Instructional Designer for Graduate and Undergraduate level courses, including Sound Design, Advanced Recording & Production, Post Production, Electronic Music, and Game Audio.
- Received a student review average of 9.73/10.
- Established and administered the SFSU CEL certification programs.



## TECHNICAL

Articulate Storyline, Captivate, Canvas, Learning Management Systems, Instructional Technology, SCORM, ADDIE, SAM, Kirkpatrick, Web Dev/Pub Fundamentals, Google Suite, Microsoft Office, Apple Suite, Camtasia, Adobe Creative Cloud, Digital Content Production, Creative Technology



## ASSOCIATIONS

Acoustical Society of America  
Advance HE  
Association for Computing Machinery  
Audio Engineering Society  
Center for New Music  
Fractured Atlas  
Game Audio Network Guild  
Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers  
Interactive Audio Special Interest Group  
Intl Society for Music Information Retrieval  
Society for Electro-Acoustic Music in the US  
Society of Professional Audio Recording Services  
Special Interest Group on Computer Graphics



## LEADERSHIP

Augmenting the Reality of Interactive Learning Environments (2023)  
  
Learning Efficacy of Multimedia in Interactive Augmented Reality Environments (2017)  
  
Effects of Arts Education and Underserved Communities (2016)  
  
Adaptive Learning Design Implications: Effects of Multimedia on Learning Efficacy and Cognitive Load (2016)  
  
Fellow, Advance HE (2016)



## EARLY CAREER

**Executive Director** (2011 – 2015)  
Apple Training Hawaii  
  
**Producer, Composer, Music Supervisor** (2011 – 2015) Country Road Films  
  
**Producer, Arranger, Engineer** (2001 – 2004)  
Narada Michael Walden, Tarpan Studios