

Chris Colatos

Learning Leadership / Creative Innovation

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San Francisco Bay Area

SUMMARY

Transformative learning & development leader known for driving sustainable growth and data-driven innovation. An entrepreneurial spirit and a proven record of designing world-class learning experiences—excelling in leading cross-functional projects from end to end, building scalable teams, and establishing growth strategies. Big-picture person with an eye for detail, a talent for tech, a knack for storytelling, and the vision to transform how organizations engage their audiences and each other. Expertise in delivering learner-centered solutions and cultivating high-performing, inclusive cultures that position learners and institutions for sustainable success.

EXPERIENCE

Chief Learning and Development Officer (2023 – Present)

ASI

- Designed and facilitated leadership programs, focusing on transformative principles, significantly enhancing management skills, team efficacy, and morale.
- Architected and executed organizational strategy and learning programs from onboarding to leadership, conducting 220+ performance evals and resulting coaching sessions in the first year, fostering continuous growth, upskilling, and retention.
- Led onboarding and certification for 300+ new employees in the first year.
- Boosted compliance by 180% in six months by developing custom certification tracking software that autonomously notified employees of credentials and timelines.
- Doubled employee retention in the first six months through targeted initiatives.
- Developed SOPs and interdepartmental processes, driving digital transformation and improving organizational efficiency through data-driven evaluations.

Fellow (2016 – Present)

The Higher Education Academy

- Awarded Fellowship under UKPSF for excellence in teaching in higher education.

Chief Learning Officer (2022 – 2023)

Fractional Chief Learning Officer (2018 – 2022)

Unforgettable Learning

- Led corporate teams at leading organizations, incl. global tech companies, & academic teams at universities, designing and delivering data-informed, active, learner-centered teaching and learning experiences, strategies, programs, curricula, assessments, analytics, accessibility conformance, and digital transformation to optimize efficacy & engagement.
- Led the strategic design of transformative, multimodal executive learning programs to drive leadership development through customized learning journeys.
- Owned the overall design, development, and execution of learning experience strategies, multimedia technologies, and systems for delivering synchronous and asynchronous programs to enhance learner engagement and knowledge acquisition.

North America Director of Learning Design (2020 – 2022)

North America Chair of Curriculum Design (2015 – 2019)

SAE Institute

- Founded the Learning Design department for the North America system (7 colleges).
- Led learning designers, learning media developers, SMEs, curriculum committees, and campus leadership teams to design, develop, and implement experiential and active higher education teaching and learning tools and experiences.
- Served as the institutional specialist for online and hybrid learning innovation.

HIGHLIGHTS

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

Led institutions and programs for thousands, significantly improving engagement & impact as Chief Learning Officer, Director of Education, and North America Director of Learning Design.

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

EDUCATION

MASTER OF SCIENCE, DIGITAL EDUCATION (Hons)

The University of Edinburgh

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE, SOUND ARTS (Hons)

Ex'pression Center for New Media

LEADERSHIP COMMUNICATION

Northwestern University

TRUSTED TESTER TOOLS (All)

U.S. Dept. of Homeland Security (9 Certs)

COMPUTATIONAL THINKING FOR PROBLEM-SOLVING

University of Pennsylvania

LEARNING ANALYTICS/ED DATA MINING

Columbia University

INTELLIGENT AUDIO SYSTEMS (MIR)

Stanford University

CREATIVE CODING

Gray Area Foundation for the Arts

ALGORITHMIC COMPOSITION

University of California, Santa Cruz

SKILLS

Learning and Development Leadership
Higher Education Leadership
Growth and Strategic Vision
Executive Development and Corporate Training
Learning Experience Design and Technology
Human-Centered Design and Innovation
Program Design and Development
Competency-Based Education
Experiential Learning, eLearning, Hybrid Learning
Cross-Functional Project Management
Communication and Presenting
Data-Driven Learning Analytics & Decision-Making
Efficient and Effective Project Actualization
Fostering Collaboration & High Morale
Digital Transformation
Digital Accessibility Conformance
Music Production and Interactive Sound Design
AI Tools for Research, Learning, & Creative

EXPERIENCE

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

SAE Expression College

- Owned the vision and performance for all academic and student affairs within the campus; chief academic officer.
- Hired and mentored 70+ Program Chairs, administrators, staff, and faculty, supporting thousands of students.
- Represented the college and built internal and external federal, state, and local regulatory, accreditation, and community partnerships.
- Developed, implemented, and maintained internal and external policies, including Standards of Accreditation (ADA, 504, 508, SEVIS, Title IV, Title IX, ACICS, ACCSC).
- 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.

Lecturer / Learning Designer (2012 – 2015)

San Francisco State University

- Faculty Lecturer and Learning Designer for Graduate and Undergraduate-level courses, incl. Intermedia Comp, Sound Design, Adv. Recording, and Game Audio.
- Applied digital learning strategies to the design and development of hybrid courses and courseware, learning activities, and assessments, and vetted and implemented appropriate technologies and tools to achieve learning goals.
- Established, designed, and administered the SFSU CEL certification programs.

Founder / Chief Creative (1993 – Present)

THE STUDI/O

- Lead the organizational vision, strategy, and creative direction.
- Serve as the principal producer 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 produce for high-profile brands, including Apple, Google, LeapFrog, Honor Code, Legends The Game, Robot Invader, Eagre 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 Phillinganes, Siedah Garrett, Narada Michael Walden, James Taylor, Carole King, Smokey Robinson, Billy Joel, Sting, Elton John, and Katy Perry.

TECHNICAL

Articulate Storyline 360, Captivate, Vyond, Camtasia, Canvas, LTI, Learning Management Systems, Instructional Technology, SCORM, Action Mapping, ADDIE, SAM, Kirkpatrick, Learning Analytics, Power BI, Kanban, Agile, Scrum, Siteimprove, axe, WAVE, Accessibility Insights, Google Workspace, Microsoft 365, Apple, Jira, Monday, Asana, Trello, Slack, Adobe Creative Cloud, Unreal Engine, Logic Pro, Music & Sound Design, Interactive Audio, AI Tools

ASSOCIATIONS

Intl Association of Accessibility Professionals
Acoustical Society of America
Advance HE (Fellow)
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

Advisory Board Member, Amotions (2024 –)

Augmenting the Reality of Accessible 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)

EARLY CAREER

Executive Director (2011 – 2015)
Apple Training Hawaii

Producer, Composer, Music Supervisor
(2011 – 2015) Country Road Films

SEO, QR (2008 – 2010) Google

Master Trainer ACT T3 (28 Certifications)
(2006 –) Apple Inc.

Producer, Arranger, Engineer (2001 – 2004)
Narada Michael Walden, Tarpan Studios