

Chris Velazquez

Product Design | AI Strategy & Ethics | MBA Candidate

christopherjvelazquez@gmail.com | [Website](#) | [Portfolio](#) | Richmond, VA

Simple Thread | Sr. Product Designer | Energy, Infrastructure, Innovation

September 2024 - Present

- Directed the strategy and design of mission-critical systems for the electrical grid through deep consultation with engineering teams and end-users.
- Architected a financial tracking and modeling system that successfully scaled construction change order management and improved internal operational efficiency.
- Leveraged an AI Leadership certification to begin pivoting expertise toward code-based prototyping and internal technology innovation.

Pearl | Sr. Product Designer | Education, Tutoring, Big Data

October 2023 - September 2024

- Designed a comprehensive design system using advanced Figma tokens and variables to achieve one-to-one parity with a Tailwind CSS codebase, significantly increasing development velocity.
- Directed research planning and stakeholder interviews for a primary initiative focused on transforming educational data into compelling impact stories for partners.
- Designed the instructor companion mobile app. Implementing accessibility improvements and resolving critical quality-of-life issues for staff of all abilities.
- Led the design strategy for an education research platform to empower users through data storytelling and intuitive interface design.

Clearcover | Sr. Product Designer | Insurance, Underwriting

October 2021 - September 2023

- Established a two-year product runway by collaboratively designing an insurance management system that reduced financial strategy authoring time from six months to one month.
- Championed monthly UX improvements to the core policy management system to enable customer support staff to service time-sensitive financial records more effectively.
- Designer, researcher, and tester for four distinct technical product teams to ensure consistent, high-quality interactive prototypes and workflows.

RTS Labs | Founding Product Designer | Finance, Security, Design Operations

March 2017 - October 2021

- Built the company's first UX/UI practice from the ground up as the founding designer, eventually scaling the team to four full-time designers.
- Institutionalized foundational processes for discovery, design, and research that contributed to securing several multi-million dollar contracts.
- Shipped over 30 products across diverse sectors including finance, education, and energy, demonstrating a high degree of versatility as a lead consultant.

ICF International | Consulting, Government, Social Impact

September 2015 to March 2017

Designer and front end engineer of large-scale digital transformation projects for federal clients.

Education

Masters of Business Administration

Longwood University
Winter 2026 (Current Student)

Gen AI Leadership

Google Education
Certificate on Nov 2025

AI Strategy & Governance

University of Pennsylvania
Certificate on Jan 2026

People Management Essentials

Google Education
Certificate on Dec 2025

UX Strategy & Management

Interaction Design Foundation
Certificate on July 2021

Media Arts & Design

James Madison University
July 2015