

HASSAN AKMAL, M.B.A., M.P.H.

Global Career Services Thought Leader, Career and Life Design Consultant, and Future of Work Expert

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY AND PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

Results-driven and innovative leader with 30 years of experience in higher education, career services, human resources, people operations, L&D, talent strategies, and artificial intelligence (AI). Proven ability to empower students, alumni, and teams, cultivate strategic partnerships, drive engagement, and build key relationships with stakeholders. Demonstrates strong leadership in transforming organizations through data-driven decision-making and strategic foresight. **Expert in Career and Life Readiness, Post-Graduate Success, and the Future of Work.**

Accomplished in leading workforce development and complex programs, with a focus on continuous improvement by leveraging AI technology to enhance productivity. Adept at creative problem-solving and committed to delivering high-impact results. A strategic thinker and highly collaborative team player with a passion for empowering teams, inclusive leadership, and fostering a culture of excellence with tact. **Visionary, highly collaborative, and student-centered.**

***Transferable Skills:** Organizational effectiveness, strategic planning, road map and value proposition, AI transformation and integration, recruiting, candidate assessment, organizational leadership and behavior, technical liaison. Multilingual with expertise in communicating across diverse teams and stakeholders. Recognized for skills in change management, driving innovation, optimizing processes, and achieving strategic goals in dynamic environments.*

- **Communication:** Skilled communicator, adept at articulating vision and strategy across diverse teams to stakeholders.
Cultivating Top Talent: Portfolio ownership of high-impact early career development programming.
- **Program Management:** Extensive experience in leading and facilitating career and professional development programs with a focus on leadership and continuous improvement.
- **Project Management:** Demonstrated execution across multiple capacities and levels of an organization.
- **Software:** Knowledgeable in utilizing SaaS and technology to drive efficiency and innovation; proficient in overseeing software development projects ensuring timely and successful delivery.
- **Leadership Development:** Progressive champion of learning and development with a strong vision and experience implementing bold learning strategies with knowledge sharing and cross-collaboration.
- **Technical Liaison:** Experienced in bridging the gap between technical teams and business stakeholders.
- **Timelines:** Strong ability to manage project timelines, ensuring milestones are met and projects are delivered on schedule.
- **Established an unmatched track record** in building teams from the grassroots up.
- **Skilled at empowering teams:** Thinking big, and driving culture, diversity, and experience.
- **Exceptional versatility and adaptability:** Demonstrated change management in multiple capacities.
- **Multilingual:** Read, write, and speak English and Spanish fluently; partial fluency in Urdu/Hindi and Punjabi.

EDUCATION

Master in Business Administration, Concentration: International Business
Keller Graduate School of Management, Downers Grove, IL



GPA 3.98
December 2014

Master in Public Health, Forced Migration and Health Track, Focus Epidemiology
Mailman Graduate School of Public Health, Columbia University, New York, NY.



GPA 3.5
February 2004

Bachelor of Arts in History, Minor in Arabic
University of California, Los Angeles



June 2001

Artificial Intelligence Graduate Certificate
Harvard University, Cambridge, MA.



In Progress

INDUSTRY AND PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Executive Director of Career & Professional Development, University of California, San Diego; 09/2021 – Present

Highlights: Winner of the UC San Diego STAR Award, October 2022, Disruptor Award, 2024

- Forward-thinking leadership, foresight, and management responsibility over Career Services & Professional Development.
- Transform the Career Center into a hub, a one-stop service-oriented center that provides comprehensive, professional development assistance to 44,000 UC San Diego students and 300,000 alumni.



Career Thought Leader Consultant, Graduway; 02/2019– 04/2024

Highlights: Wrote the Foreword of the book, *Career Revolution*

- Spearheaded career consulting for the company in connection with the company's online alumni engagement and career mentorship platform globally.
- Devoted up to 35 hours per month to providing insights and recommendations on strategic direction and optimal positioning within EdTech of the platform.



Executive Director of the Career Center, University of California, Los Angeles; 02/2020 – 09/2021

Highlights: Winner of the UCLA Blue and Gold Leadership Award, August 2021

- Led an ambitious reimagining of career services in light of career disruption, its impact, and the current themes of meaningful work and purpose in the field.
- Reinvented/advanced the Career Center as a point of pride and distinction for the University (new comprehensive mission and strategic plan that intentionally integrates campus partners).



Executive Director of Industry Relations and Career Strategies, School of Professional Studies, Columbia University; Lecturer 05/2017 – 12/2019

Highlights: Winner of the Alva Cooper Regional Award for Career Services Best Practices, April 2018

- Founder, Career Design Lab: Re-imagined and reinvented the career center, opening a brand new award-winning space in Times Square, New York City in 2017
- Designed, organized, and oversaw the largest career center event by any university in the nation, Career Week: This event included over 35 panels and workshops with a theme of the future of meaningful work.



Director, Business Career Services; Department Chair, Career Education; Adjunct Professor, Quinlan School of Business, Loyola University Chicago; 05/2014 – 05/2017

Highlights: Rising Star Excellence Award Jan 2015; Loyola Team Spirit Award Nominee, Jan 2014, Jan 2015

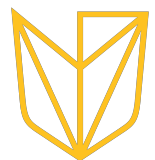
- Built the first-ever Loyola University Chicago state-of-the-art Career Center from blueprint to ribbon cutting.
- Designed and launched innovative programming including Q Passports to Success.



Director, Career Services, DeVry College of New York; 04/2012 – 04/2014; Director, Career Services, Visiting Professor; DeVry University, Sherman Oaks Metro, CA, U.S. 01/2010 – 04/2012

Highlights: DeVry Cup Winner

- Led the career services team to achieve the highest job placement rate in the college's history.
- Awarded outstanding performance in career services, June 2013.



Business Development Manager, Private Banker, Bank of Whittier, Whittier, CA, U.S. 12/2008 – 12/2009

- Provided personalized financial planning and investment advisory services to high-net-worth clients; developed and maintained a diversified client portfolio, achieving substantial growth in assets under management.
- Conducted thorough market analysis and research to inform investment strategies and recommendations; delivered educational seminars and workshops on financial planning topics to clients and community groups.



Financial Advisor, UBS Financial Services Inc. Century City, CA, U.S. 07/2007 - 11/2008

- Successfully managed and grew a portfolio of high-net-worth clients, providing tailored financial solutions; led business development initiatives, resulting in significant increases in new client acquisitions and deposits; collaborated with senior management to design and implement strategic marketing campaigns.
- Provided exceptional client service, building strong relationships and ensuring high levels of customer satisfaction.



TECHNICAL SKILLS

- **Desktop Operating Systems:** Microsoft Windows XP (Pro/Home/Office), Windows, Windows Vista, Windows, MAC OS X
- **Software:** Salesforce, Zoom, Slack, Microsoft Teams, Google Suite, Word, Excel, Outlook, PowerPoint, Access/Project, Dreamweaver, Photoshop, Illustrator, LinkedIn, Facebook + Google Ads, Tableau, Smartsheets, Highre
- **Computer Savvy** with career-related technologies: 12Twenty, CSO, Career Eco, PeopleGrove, Symplicity, Career Beam, Pivot Planet, V-Mock, EmployOn, Career Builder, Interview Stream and management software: Kronos, Salesforce, DocuSign, ImageNow, Banner, iemployee, Expense Wire, ServiceNow, Gravyty, Gradway
- **AI:** Custom GPT build (www.CareerandLifeDesignLab.com) and architecture, **ChatGPT, Midjourney, DALL-E**, and prompt engineering

SPECIAL DISTINCTIONS

- **TEDx Speaker:** Delivered a TEDx Talk on March 27, 2021 for *TEDxColumbiaUniversity* on the topic: "[The Power to Design a Life You Love: Five Secrets to Career and Life Mastery.](#)"; over 1.7 million views
- Delivered Keynotes at McGill University's Power Skills Conference on the topic of Career and Life Vision, January 2021 and at UCLA on the Future of Career Services, April 2019
- Top 1% Most Viewed LinkedIn profiles in 2012 and 2013 and Nominated for the National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE) Mackes Leadership Award in 2024 and 2025

PUBLICATIONS

Books:

The Interior Design of Your Career and Life™, You Are the Artist of Your Life: The Interior Design of Your Future, Career Architect GPT: Design Your Future Self with Agility, Precision, and Purpose in the Age of Superintelligence: The AI Mosaic of Career & Life Design

Articles:

["Designing the Future of Career Services"](#) (Dec 1, 2023), ["Reimagining Student Employment"](#) (May 1, 2024), ["UC San Diego Passport Program Helps Students Create Their Own Career and Life Design Roadmap"](#) (Oct 6, 2023), ["Inside Higher Ed: "Beyond Work-Life Balance: The Future of Career Services Lies in Career and Life Integration"](#) (March 3, 2025)

