RASA GIERSTIKAS

Chicago, IL | 773-934-4829 | rgiersti@gmail.com | linkedin: rasagierstikas

**Project Manager | Scrum Master | Software Development**

Remote-ready Project Manager/Scrum Master with several years of experience in both Agile and Waterfall frameworks, building high-performing teams. Proven ability to streamline processes, deliver on time, and empower teams to achieve success.

**CORE COMPETENCIES**

Scrum Framework| Agile Methodologies | Customer-Centric | Continuous Improvements | Ceremony Facilitation Backlog Refinement | Coaching | Certified Scrum Master | Certified SAFe 6 Agilist

**CAREER ACHIEVEMENTS**

* Established a centralized PMO that significantly improved on-time project delivery through standardized Agile methodologies.
* Guided project teams in adopting Agile methodologies/ Scrum framework, leading to improved collaboration and faster time to market.
* Hands-on experience as a Scrum Master, guiding successful Scrum practices.

**PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

**Freelancer | Confidential Client, Norfolk, VA (Remote) September 2023 – December 2023***Freelancer for an interactive museum installation that utilizes real-time data to create a dynamic and immersive experience that responds to visitors' actions or external stimuli.*

* Conducted extensive research on museum installations, analyzing trends and technologies to inform innovative exhibition experiences.
* Developed detailed competitive landscapes, identifying opportunities for differentiation and enhancing the client's competitive edge.
* Designed intuitive UI behavior for an app, ensuring seamless navigation and fostering an immersive visitor experience.

**Technical Project Manager | InfoTrack US, NY, NY (Remote) August 2021 – June 2023***Agile project management for data migration and integration initiatives, improving on-time delivery and fostering collaboration for a leading provider of legal technology solutions.*

* Led Scrum ceremonies (Sprint Planning, Daily Stand-ups, Retrospectives) that fostered increased team transparency, collaboration, and problem-solving capabilities.
* Championed backlog refinement processes leading to improved prioritization and alignment of development efforts with business goals.
* Proactively identified and mitigated risks, preventing potential scope creep and ensuring project alignment with project goals.

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**Project Manager| World Headquarters, Chicago, IL (Remote) March 2020 – March 2021**

*Spearheaded Agile implementation, fostered collaboration, managed timelines, and cultivated client relationships to drive project success and boost team output for design and development brand experiences.*

* Led daily Scrum ceremonies and implemented Agile methodologies, boosting team collaboration and productivity and increasing output.
* Facilitated communication between stakeholders (e.g. clients, internal teams, and external partners) fostering successful partnerships throughout the projects’ lifecycles.
* Managed project timelines and milestones to ensure on-time completion of deliverables and projects' goals.

**Project Manager| Bright Bright Great, Chicago, IL (Hybrid) August 2019 – February 2020**

*Project Manager for a design-thinking and branding studio specializing in creating cutting-edge digital products and experiences for clients across various industries.*

* Cultivated strong relationships, proactively mitigated risks, and ensured client satisfaction by exceeding expectations throughout development.
* Implemented innovative improvements using Agile methodologies that boosted project efficiency and maximized client value by streamlining workflows.
* Delivered regular progress reports, fostering active client engagement and keeping them informed throughout each sprint.

**Senior Business Analyst| Spins, LLC, Chicago, IL (Hybrid) January 2018 – January 2019**

• A versatile software contributor, seamlessly collaborating across teams to deliver high-quality software from concept to completion.

**Business Analyst/Scrum Master | Hard Hat Hub, Chicago, IL (On-Site) July 2016 – February 2017**

* Guided successful Scrum practices, broke down projects, and wrote clear user stories for optimal team alignment and delivery.

**Helpdesk Director | Over the Shoulder, Chicago, IL (Hybrid) March 2013 – March 2016**

* Boosted user experience and streamlined operations by designing custom workflows, recruiting & analyzing mobile study participants, and building valuable training materials for diverse audiences.

**Customer Support/Temp Manager | Groupon, Chicago, IL (On-Site) December 2009 – March 2013**

• Thrived in a high-pressure BSC e-commerce environment, excelling in escalated service resolution

**EDUCATION, TRAINING & CERTIFICATIONS**

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| * **Bachelor’s of Arts, DePaul University** | * **Certified Scrum Master, Scrum Alliance (February 2024 – February 2026)** |
| * **SAFe 6 Agilist, Scaled Agile, Inc.**   **(January 2024 – January 2025)** | * **Project Management Certifications, Google (2022- never expires)** |

**VOLUNTEER**

**Dog Foster Volunteer | One Tail at a Time, Chicago, IL February 2022 – present**