

# VAL RUARK

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## SUMMARY

Results-oriented strategic leader with 17+ years of experience driving organizational excellence and transformation in various sectors, including Aerospace & Defense, Finance, and Technology. Expertise in business strategy, finance, procurement, and human capital, focusing on data-driven decision-making, cross-functional operations, and process optimization. Proven track record of leading high-performing teams and solving complex challenges. Key highlights include:

- Accelerated implementation of over 100 program planning and control initiatives by an average of 20%, resulting in \$300M in savings.
- Implemented an enterprise-wide solution that uncovered \$27M in rogue assets, leading to a \$10M annual increase in operating capital.
- Designed a new subsidiary from the ground up, building a successful business model that secured investors and drove rapid growth.

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

### REI Systems

#### Senior Manager, Strategy & Organization Consulting Services; Remote

10/2022 – Present

Director for various management consultant capabilities, including strategic planning, organization development, and business transformation. Managed the delivery of 10+ concurrent projects, ranging from \$250K to \$3.5M, and teams of 1 to 30 consultants, with 5+ teaming partners.

- **Furthered the value of a \$76B Business Portfolio.** Identified transformative initiatives that resourcefully obtained annual performance targets and met yearly goals, exceeding cost avoidance and savings metrics by more than 10% (~\$80 million in savings).
- **Earned “Exceptional” CPARS ratings from clients.** Drove innovative solutions and digital strategies to help clients optimize their business and technology environments, achieving their business goals efficiently and cost-effectively.
- **Achieved 33% year-over-year growth.** Scaled new business services for the governmentwide IT Vendor Management Office by developing a comprehensive 5-year maturity plan, driving significant growth and innovation, and obtaining a 100% customer satisfaction rating.

#### Manager, Strategy & Organization Consulting Services; Remote

8/2019 – 10/2022

Strategic advisor to government executives and senior managers, serving as chief of staff advising on organizational strategy, development, and business operations. Oversaw multiple accounts and program teams simultaneously, fostering a collaborative and high-performing culture.

- **Secured new account and grew by 1200%.** Overcame significant obstacles, negotiating and closing a new account in a highly competitive market, extending the company's footprint. Rapidly doubled account growth year-over-year, adding new capabilities and services.
- **Designed a highly sought-after transformation change management framework.** Multiple agencies have used the framework for accelerating large-scale change; such efforts have obtained \$10M+ cost savings, generated 30%+ growth, and achieved 100% compliance.
- **Advanced governmentwide goals.** Guided executives in creating strategic plans that provided longer horizon roadmaps for product and service design, maximizing their resources and leading to increased market share, improved profitability, and distinguished honors and awards.

### National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)

#### Senior Manager, Business Strategy & Range IT Operations; Hybrid

7/2015 – 8/2019

Head business and technical manager for end-to-end delivery and governance of the Range IT infrastructure and support services, including all regional facilities and spaceflight launches. Led multidisciplinary teams of 20+ engineers and business managers, delivering on time and budget.

- **Obtained new growth opportunities.** Expanded the company's role in the defense market, securing new customers by introducing cutting-edge products at no cost. Negotiated a multi-million dollar, multi-mission program that positioned the company for continued growth.
- **Improved operational proficiency.** Streamlined mission support and facility operations, resulting in a 32% increase in workforce proficiency and \$10 million in cost savings per mission. This represented a 50% reduction in total IT costs.
- **Modernized infrastructure profitably.** Cultivated cross-organizational partnerships with government, non-profits, and commercial suppliers to negotiate terms, eliminate waste, and securely modernize and extend IT services at no cost. Efficiencies returned \$7.3M annually.

#### Chief of Staff for Flight Projects; Greenbelt, MD

12/2012 – 7/2015

Advisor on organization and programmatic matters for a \$3.3B Flight Projects Portfolio, identifying risks and opportunities to strengthen operational excellence. Led and mentored a high-performing matrixed team of 45 individuals, executing large-scale strategic initiatives to improve performance.

- **Employed a new enterprise risk system sought by international partners.** Captured a baseline set of over 3,000 risks, increasing visibility and synthesizing data across the portfolio to inform crosscutting trends that guided data-driven decisions that obtained cost savings.
- **Revitalized supplier relationships.** Facilitated quarterly executive dialogues and prepared comprehensive decks to support the negotiation of favorable terms and open communication with suppliers, resulting in improved performance and mutually beneficial agreements.
- **Restored a National brand.** Countered audit findings with cross-functional initiatives and data assessments. Prepared and published a series of whitepapers and executive reports for Congress. The results obtained congressional advocacy and safeguarded billions in funding.

## **Program Manager, Capital Planning & IT Investments; Greenbelt, MD**

**9/2009 – 12/2012**

Manager of the Center's 56 capital IT investments, overseeing analysis, planning, and data-driven decision-making for the \$255M IT Portfolio. Certified efficient use of resources and advised on investment strategies in alignment with executives' priorities to grow and maximize the value of IT.

- **Designed a Federated Governance System.** Formed multi-disciplinary partnerships across the Center to establish a working-level, tactical, and strategic set of governing boards for the CIO and created the first NASA Goddard Strategic Plan and Tactical Roadmap.
- **Transformed budget formulation, producing real-time business insights.** Developed a custom business tool and streamlined cross-functional processes, centralizing disparate data and enabling real-time intelligence—increased data reliability by more than 70%.
- **Formed cross-functional teams to advance executive goals.** Founded an advisory committee with 450 members in its first year, providing strategic guidance to the agency. Sought after by external organizations for expertise in implementing similar initiatives.

## **ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCE**

- **Arctic Slope Research Corporation Federal, Project Support Specialist** **3/2009 – 9/2009**
- **Stinger Ghaffarian Technologies Inc., Project Support Specialist** **2/2009 – 3/2009**
- **Pinellas County Board of Education, Substitute Teacher** **9/2008 – 12/2008**
- **Wicomico County Board of Education, Teacher and Head Coach** **8/2007 – 8/2008**

## **EDUCATION & TRAINING**

**Master of Business Administration (MBA), Acquisitions & Contract Management.** American Graduate University. Covina, CA. 2012.

**Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA), Three-dimensional Design.** Salisbury University, Salisbury, MD. 2007.

### ***Certification Programs***

- **Certified Change Professional.** Prosci. USA. 2022.
- **Certified Technology Business Management Executive.** Technology Business Management Council. USA. 2019.
- **ITIL® v3 Foundations and Service Level Agreements.** Office of Government Commerce/Loyalist Certification Services. 2009.

### ***Leadership Programs***

- **Transformative Leadership in Disruptive Times Certificate Program.** George Washington, Stillman School of Business, Remote. 2021.
- **Voyagers, Executive Leadership Program.** American Council for Technology (ACT)-Industry Advisory Council (IAC), Washington D.C. 2013.
- **Regional Leadership Forum (RLF), Executive Program.** Society Information Management, Baltimore, MD. 2011.

### ***Continuing Professional Development***

- **Earned Value Management (EVM) System Executive.** Humphrey Associates EVM Consulting & Training. 2013.
- **Beyond Scheduling Basics.** NASA Academy of Program/Project & Engineering Leadership (APPEL). 2011.
- **EVM for Government Executive Managers, Staff, and Partners.** Potomac Forum, LTD. 2010.
- **Project Management & Systems Engineering.** NASA Academy of Program/Project & Engineering Leadership (APPEL). 2010.

## **PUBLICATIONS**

1. **Optimizing Federal Agency Performance Through Effective Change Management.** 2020, Association of Change Management Professionals
2. **Mining Data for Common Risks Across the Portfolio,** 2017, Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE)
3. **The Business Change Initiative: A novel approach to improved cost/schedule,** 2016, IEEE
4. **Managing Cost/Schedule/Technical through a Sustained Change Framework.** 2015, IEEE
5. **Unleashing the Power of IT Innovation to Reduce the Budget Deficit.** 2013, ACT-IAC