

Rex L. Vargas

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SUMMARY

Strategic product and consulting leader with a Masters of Product Design and Development Management and an MBA. Leads cross-functional teams from concept to launch across enterprise solutions and consumer products, with experience in financial services, digital collaboration, hospitality and retail operations. Applies generative AI to practical business needs, combining product vision, delivery leadership and client relationships with a foundation in wealth management and investment services.

EDUCATION

NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY – Evanston, IL	2015–2017
MPD2 (Masters of Product Design and Development Management)	
UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA – Gainesville, FL	2013–2015
MBA: Finance, Entrepreneurship, and Management	
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS – Urbana-Champaign, IL	2003–2007
BA: Economics	

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

EPAM Systems 2018–Present

Director, Business Consulting & Product Development – Chicago, IL and New York, NY

- Led EPAM's Financial Services Generative AI Virtual Competency Network, shaping global go-to-market strategy and delivering GenAI solutions across client engagements.
- Optimized end-to-end product delivery using Agile and hybrid software development practices, reducing time-to-market by 15–50% across multiple client engagements.
- Manage programs with cross-functional Product, Engineering and Design teams, aligning product strategy, business priorities and delivery execution.
- Scale GenAI capabilities by turning concepts into practical solutions for wealth management, insurance and financial services.
- Developed and launched digital wealth solutions, including financial advisor platforms and algorithmic trading systems supporting more than \$100 billion in client assets.
- Facilitate workshops to align business value, product vision and enterprise transformation priorities; build client relationships and cultivate growth through product delivery and problem-solving.

THE DEVBRIDGE GROUP (acquired by Cognizant) 2017–2018

Senior Product Manager – Chicago, IL

- Delivered digital experiences across platforms for Fortune 1000 clients in financial services, hospitality, manufacturing and apparel.
- Led multiple Agile teams through successful product launches using Agile and Scrum practices.
- Managed product roadmaps and backlogs by gathering and documenting detailed requirements, use cases and user stories.
- Launched and managed 5+ products, improving client engagement and supporting revenue growth and innovation.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE CONTINUED

THE NORTHERN TRUST COMPANY

Product Owner & Vice President – Chicago, IL

2014–2017

- Led product and software development for proprietary digital advice platforms, including Goals Driven Wealth Management and NT Mobile, to improve client and advisor experiences.
- Managed product roadmaps and backlogs in alignment with business goals and strategy.
- Collaborated with Design, Engineering, Marketing, QA and business teams to iterate on application designs and improve the digital experience.
- Increased Northern Trust Mobile user adoption by 30% within one year.

Investment Portfolio Manager & Second Vice-President – Miami, FL

2011–2014

- Implemented regional development plans spanning P&L, risk and business development.

NYLIFE SECURITIES

2010–2011

Financial Services Manager – Chicago, IL

THE NORTHERN TRUST COMPANY

Investment Officer & Institutional Sales Representative – Chicago, IL

2009–2010

- Developed and managed a portfolio of clients trading marketable securities.

Management Development Program – Chicago, IL

2007–2009

LEADERSHIP AND VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

Member Care Collaboration Network (MCCN) – Volunteer Product Lead

- Guide product strategy, the technology roadmap and cross-functional delivery for a telehealth platform supporting medical, mental and pastoral care for missionaries, with a focus on low-bandwidth optimization.
- Northwestern Memorial Hospital Auxiliary Board: Former Board Member.
- Harvest Bible Chapel: Security and Group Leader.
- Directed disaster relief, medical missions and food shipment efforts in the Philippines.
- Co-founder and Instructor: Established a Jiu Jitsu academy in Chicago.

SKILLS AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Product leadership: Agile methodologies, strategic planning, product roadmaps, digital transformation, stakeholder management and cross-functional delivery.

Tools: Atlassian Jira, Confluence, Claude, Adobe Photoshop, Adobe Premiere, Adobe Illustrator, InVision, Balsamiq, Slack and Google Suite.

Selected credentials and education: Google Cloud Digital Leader; Google AI Essentials; IBM Generative AI: Foundation Models and Platforms.

Personal interests: Videography, photography and music.