

## **MATTHEW SHELDON AMES, PhD**

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Open to International Relocation

### **SUMMARY**

Digital learning and academic innovation leader with 20+ years of global experience building and institutionalizing scalable learning ecosystems across medical, public health, and higher education environments. Directed multi-year digital transformation strategies, integrated AI-enabled learning systems, and contributed to cross-continental teams across the United States, East Africa, and the Gulf region. Recognized for aligning digital infrastructure, faculty development, and academic support systems with accreditation, retention, and institutional growth priorities in emerging and rapidly expanding universities.

### **Core Leadership & Strategic Competencies**

- Digital Transformation Strategy
- Academic Innovation & Faculty Development
- Institutional Change Management
- AI Integration in Higher Education
- Budget Oversight & Resource Allocation
- Grant Development & Sponsored Programs Support
- Cross-Cultural Leadership (U.S., East Africa, GCC)
- LMS Ecosystem Design & Implementation
- Digital Health Education Systems

## **WORK EXPERIENCE**

### **Educational Researcher, Digital Learning Consultant & Writer**

Independent / Project-Based Tbilisi, Georgia

January 2026 – Present

- Providing advisory support to institutions on digital transformation strategy, learning center redesign, and faculty development systems.
- Publishing research and thought leadership on educational technology, AI integration, and institutional change (AECT at 100; TechTrends).
- Developing executive-level frameworks for scaling AI-enabled learning in global higher education contexts.

### **Director of the Center for Learning Support Services and e-Learning Programs / Assistant Professor - Education**

American University of Ras Al Khaimah Ras Al Khaimah, UAE

July 2024-January 2026

- Directed the revitalization and strategic integration of centralized academic support and digital learning services serving 800+ undergraduate students, aligning tutoring, learning centers, and LMS systems with institutional accreditation and retention priorities.
- Led and developed a 30+ member cross-disciplinary instructional team across English and Math support centers, implementing standardized training frameworks, performance oversight systems, and service quality benchmarks.
- Improved student utilization and engagement with academic support services through data-informed service redesign.

- Contributed to institutional teaching and learning innovation efforts through faculty collaboration, digital systems alignment, and support for continuous improvement initiatives.
- Oversaw operational budgeting and resource allocation to optimize service delivery while advancing scalable, technology-enhanced learning support models.

### **Head of e-Learning & Assistant Professor**

University of Global Health Equity Kigali, Rwanda

November 2019-July 2024

- Directed the development and execution of a five-year institutional e-Learning strategy aligned with medical education priorities and Rwanda's national Digital Health agenda, supporting blended and online delivery across undergraduate and professional programs.
- Built and institutionalized the university's e-Learning function, establishing governance structures, faculty development systems, and scalable LMS integration to support sustainable digital growth.
- Contributed to grant development and strategic design of digital Communities of Practice for neglected tropical disease (NTD) workforce development, advising on knowledge-sharing architecture and AI-supported training innovation.
- Consulted on and led LMS course architecture for the Digital Health Applied Leadership Program (DHALP), translating applied digital health curriculum into scalable online delivery infrastructure.
- Contributor to Erasmus+ funded EU project (RADIC) coordinated by Jamk University of Applied Sciences (Finland), collaborating with partners in Finland,

Rwanda, and Zanzibar on digital rehabilitation education capacity-building initiatives.

### **Assistant Professor Department of Education**

New York Institute of Technology (Remote)  
August 2017- October 2019

- Led remote delivery and curricular design of undergraduate instructional technology coursework within a fully online program model.

### **Instructional Designer**

Vinnell Arabia Riyadh, Saudi Arabia  
November 2015-January 2018

- Developed institutional educational technology strategy for a new graduate college in Riyadh, advising executive leadership on infrastructure and systems alignment.

### **Instructor & Course Developer**

The Center for Instructional Technology Solutions in Industry and Education (CITSIE),  
Virginia Tech Blacksburg, Virginia  
June 2013-October 2015

- Designed and delivered teacher education courses through fully remote instruction for CITSIE including Message Design, and Product Evaluation.

### **Early Career Instructional Design Leadership (2002–2013)**

Virginia Tech | Valencia Community College

Provided curriculum and digital learning leadership across multi-campus institutions serving 40,000+ students; supported large-scale LMS integration and digital media transformation initiatives.

### **SELECTED RESEARCH and PRESENTATIONS**

Ames, M. S. (2023). Chapters in AECT at 100. Brill.

Clark-Stallkamp, R., & Ames, M. (2023). TechTrends (Q1 Scopus).

Cyuzuzo et al. (2025). JMIR Human Factors (Q2 Scopus).

**Selected International Presentations:**

- e-Learning Africa (Dakar)
- Advancing Medical Education Conference (Kigali)
- TUFH Regional Conference (Africa)

**EDUCATION**

Ph.D., Instructional Design & Technology — Virginia Tech

M.A., Instructional Technology — Virginia Tech

B.A., Philosophy — Ferrum College