SALENA F. BURKE

Professional: [JIL Software Solutions](#)
Philanthropist: [Jerome Burke Foundation](#)
Researcher: [Let Design Talk](#)

Education:

Illinois Institute of Technology
Ph.D., Institute of Design, 2025

DePaul University
MS, Information System, 2021
MS, Computer Science, 2005

Loyola University Chicago
BA, Criminal Justice, 1999

Wilbur Wright College
AAS, Criminal Justice, 1996

Certification:

DePaul University
SQL Server Database Administration 2013

Fellowships:

Carole and Gordon Segal Endowed Fellowship, 2022
Charles Harrison Fellowship, 2023

Research:

Institute of Design – Illinois Institute of Technology
August 2022 – Present
My research, situated at the intersection of design, technology, and education, explores the creation of an AI-collaborative system with educational stakeholders, particularly focusing on African American students. It aims to leverage AI to enhance career awareness and provide personalized learning experiences, addressing the unique needs of this demographic. By integrating AI-driven tools and data-driven strategies, the research seeks to empower both students and teachers, fostering a more equitable and effective educational environment.

Professional Experience:

Jerome Burke Foundation
Founder & President, 2019 to Present
Oversee administration, programs, and strategic planning for a 501(c)3 organization. Responsibilities include fundraising, marketing, community

outreach, managing daily operations, and reporting results to the board of directors. Prepare analyses on fundraising performance and maintain a diverse, qualified volunteer staff to meet strategic goals and objectives. Develop and implement strategic initiatives to expand the foundation's reach and impact. Foster partnerships with community leaders and organizations to support the foundation's mission and goals.

J.I.L Software Solutions, LLC
Chief Executive Officer, 2009 to Present
Oversee all financial and operational aspects of the company. Foster a strong company culture, provide inspired leadership, build positive employee relationships, and set strategic direction. Manage client projects throughout their life cycle using agile methodology and oversee internal IT consultants. Specialize in enterprise development and data center management.

Burke Business Center, LLC
Chief Executive Officer, 2005 to 2009
Developed innovative marketing campaigns to boost company profile and profitability. Managed bookkeeping, payroll, and marketing activities while negotiating vendor contracts to enhance product profitability. Provided a range of services, including café and retail services, business services, enterprise development, graphic design, database management, and computer training.

Compass Professional Services, LLC
IT Manager, 2000 to 2020
Managed all IT functions, including data center management, vendor relationships, technical support, and application development. Developed and implemented IT policies and procedures to enhance system reliability and security. Cultivated strong vendor relationships to secure favorable contracts and improve service delivery. Provided technical support and troubleshooting for complex IT issues, ensuring minimal downtime and quick resolution. Led application development projects, aligning technology solutions with business objectives. Enhanced productivity and reduced costs through strategic technology utilization and process improvements. Consistently identified opportunities for innovation and efficiency within the IT department, driving continuous improvement.

Fremont Insurance Group
Sr. Software Developer, 1998 to 2000
Developed and maintained a legal system using Visual Basic for the interface with SQL Server and Microsoft Access as the backend. Utilized DAO, ADO, ODBC, and VBScript to resolve issues related to document creation, retrieval, editing, and printing in a client/server environment. Troubleshoot software, hardware, and network problems and used SMS to resolve issues for remote users. Trained users in Microsoft Office, Heat, Lotus Notes, and new implementations. Imaged and configured new machines for deployment.