

Steven (Steve) Rizzi is a retired business leader and researcher with over 40 years of experience in advanced information technology. He is a graduate of Computer Science and Russian Area Studies from Wittenberg in 1985.

Mr. Rizzi was a Vice President at Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC) and later Leidos, where he led a laboratory of computer scientists and engineers who were involved in research projects for both government and commercial clients. These projects included research for commercial companies in the finance, education, insurance, pharmaceutical, telecommunications, and entertainment industries. These efforts include basic research in advanced IT (such as data mining, reasoning systems, artificial life, collaborative tools, text understanding, etc.), electronic commerce, information security and protection, intelligent city development, and networked multi-media systems. On the government side, Mr. Rizzi's staff scientists performed research for agencies supporting national defense, environmental, medical research, and educational objectives. At the time, SAIC was the largest employee-owned R&D company in the United States with over 40,000 employee-owners. For the last years of Mr. Rizzi's career at SAIC/Leidos, he led the company's Asia-Pacific business from Melbourne, Australia where he was the American director of SAIC Pty Ltd, the company's Australian subsidiary.

Following his work at SAIC/Leidos, Mr. Rizzi led the National Capital Region operations of Pattern Analysis and Recognition Technology's (PAR) government research subsidiary, where he was responsible for a similar portfolio of technical work for ten years. His work at PAR included research into instructional technologies and training methods to accelerate acquisition of knowledge within heterogenous teams in high pressure environments.

Outside of his formal employment, Mr. Rizzi has served in multiple capacities for the state of Maryland's government. Mr. Rizzi co-chaired the Maryland Information Technology Board's subcommittee on Internet User Privacy, and he was the co-author of legislation on Internet Privacy (SB199/HB277) working with members of the Governor's administration. He also served under gubernatorial appointments for three consecutive terms on the governing board for the Maryland Longitudinal Data System Center – a ground-breaking effort to combine data from multiple government agencies to analyze the impact of policies and programs in P20 education. Additionally, Mr. Rizzi was appointed by the Governor to serve on a statewide Task Force on High-Speed Network Development. In this capacity he was actively involved in the multi-year formulation of policy and technical recommendations pursuant to executive and legislative actions.

For several years, Mr. Rizzi was an evaluator for the US Department of Education's Small Business Innovative Research Grant (SBIR) program. Mr. Rizzi led evaluations for promising technology for mathematics instruction. Mr. Rizzi has also served with roughly a dozen other nationally selected experts as an evaluator of the US Department of Education's compliance with GPRA guidelines in their funded research projects.

Mr. Rizzi's roles have involved close collaboration with more than two dozen universities on research and development projects funded by commercial or government clients. These years of interactions resulted in a deep understanding of the inner workings of university bureaucracies and academic programs. Consequently, Mr. Rizzi has advised multiple universities on academic program development and the application of technology. He was a member of the University of Maryland University College (UMUC; now known as UMGC)

Technical Advisory Group (TAG), and in this capacity, Mr. Rizzi provided technical advice and strategic guidance to the university on technology applicable to remote instructional delivery. Mr. Rizzi also supported advisory groups at the University of Melbourne (Australia), RMIT (Australia), UMBC, Stevens Institute of Technology, and Wittenberg University. Mr. Rizzi's research team was also responsible for technology planning and implementation of the innovative (and highly publicized) Celebration School (in association with The Walt Disney Company), which prototyped the use of advanced technology in instructional environments. This project was done in conjunction with Harvard and Stetson Universities. The Celebration Project was awarded a Finalist and a Laureate award (in 1998 and 1999, respectfully) by the Computerworld Smithsonian Innovation Awards.