

Dr. Frazier A. Smith

AI and IT Educator · Learning Design Leader · Community College Leadership

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Professional Summary

Dr. Frazier Smith is Department Chair for Network Management, Cybersecurity, and Cloud and Virtualization at Central Piedmont Community College in Charlotte, North Carolina. He serves as Associate Graduate Faculty at UNC Charlotte's School of Data Science and College of Computing and Informatics, and as Adjunct Instructor at Wingate University, where he co-teaches an Applied Innovation AI course for Honors students. As co-Principal Investigator on the NSF ATE Generating AI Talent grant, he is helping build one of the first associate-degree AI programs in North Carolina. His career spans enterprise technical training leadership at VMware, Broadcom, Fast Lane, Carbon Black, and Anomali, alongside a decade of instructional design work across higher education and industry.

Biography

Dr. Frazier Smith leads the Network Management, Cybersecurity, and Cloud and Virtualization department at Central Piedmont Community College, where he oversees faculty, curriculum, and industry partnerships across the IT Support, Cybersecurity, and Cloud and Networking pathways. Since stepping into the chair role in July 2025, he has built collaborations with Red Hat and Palo Alto Networks, redesigned entry-level IT courses to strengthen student progression, and mentored student data center workers connecting classroom content to live infrastructure. He also serves on the College Senate and Curriculum Committee.

His research and grant work focus on the application of artificial intelligence in career development programs and the effectiveness of post-secondary career and technical education in preparing students for industry. He is co-Principal Investigator on the NSF ATE Generating AI Talent grant and a key contributor to developing one of the first associate-degree AI programs in North Carolina.

Beyond Central Piedmont, he serves as Associate Graduate Faculty at UNC Charlotte's School of Data Science and the College of Computing and Informatics, teaching graduate courses in cloud computing for data analytics and IT project management. In January 2026 he joined Wingate University as Adjunct Instructor, partnering with faculty to teach a new Applied Innovation AI course for the Honors program — a full-circle return to the institution where he earned his bachelor's degree and previously served as Educational Technology Specialist.

His industry background gives the curriculum its edge. He spent nearly four years at VMware, ultimately serving as Senior Manager of Technical Content Development, where he led a team of twelve instructional designers and content developers responsible for sixteen courses across vSphere, VMware Cloud, and HCX — work that drove \$40 million in customer revenue in 2022. He led the team's transformation from instructor-led training toward modular eLearning and bespoke learning paths, and modernized its development process from ADDIE to an Agile, SAM-based approach suited to the pace of SaaS. Before that, as Senior Technical Instructor, he led the Carbon Black and VMware on AWS portfolio with a global instructor rating consistently above 4.95.

When VMware was acquired, he stayed on at Broadcom as Leader of Content Development for VMware vSphere Foundation and Cloud Director, then moved to Fast Lane as Senior Manager of Solutions Engineering, where he built the Services Department Jira Service Desk integrated with the company's CRM, replacing

email-driven request cycles with a streamlined operational system. Earlier roles include Senior Technical Trainer at Carbon Black, Technical Trainer at Anomali working with international cybersecurity clients, HR Training and Communications Manager at SnapAV, Mid-Level Manager of Instructional Design at CPI Security — where he built an award-winning interactive xAPI module using Bluetooth beacons — Program Manager for eLearning at Belk, and Educational Technology Specialist at Wingate University.

His technical foundation spans cloud infrastructure across AWS, Azure, and Google Cloud, virtualization, cybersecurity, network architecture, and data center design. His current work in AI includes large language models, fine-tuning, retrieval-augmented generation, and agentic development.

Current Roles

- **Department Chair**, Network Management, Cybersecurity, and Cloud and Virtualization — Central Piedmont Community College (July 2025–present)
- **Instructor**, same department — Central Piedmont Community College (March 2023–present)
- **Associate Graduate Faculty** — UNC Charlotte School of Data Science and College of Computing and Informatics (October 2025–present)
- **Adjunct Instructor** — Wingate University Honors Program (January 2026–present)

Teaching

Frazier teaches across the technology stack at every level of post-secondary education, with a current course load that spans foundational programming, data structures, Linux administration, software architecture, and applied AI. His primary teaching home is Central Piedmont, where his department portfolio includes AWS, Azure, Google Cloud, Red Hat Linux, A+, Network+, Security+, and Cloud+ courses. Recent and upcoming course work includes:

- **Central Piedmont** — NOS-120 Linux/UNIX Single User; CSC-214 Data Structures
- **UNC Charlotte** — ITIS 3310 Software Architecture and Design; graduate courses in cloud computing for data analytics and IT project management
- **Wingate University** — Applied Innovation (AI) for Honors; Applied Innovation Lab; Digital Wellness and AI
- **Wayne Community College** — CSC-214 Data Structures; Advanced Python; CSC-113 Computing Mathematics
- **Wake Technical Community College** — CTI-110 Web, Programming, and Database Foundation

Career History

2024–2025	Senior Manager of Solutions Engineering — Fast Lane US
2023–2024	Leader, Content Development for VMware vSphere Foundation and Cloud Director — Broadcom
2022–2023	Senior Manager, Technical Content Development — VMware
2021–2022	Technical Content Development Manager, vSphere / VMware Cloud / HCX / SD-WAN — VMware
2020–2021	Senior Technical Instructor, Carbon Black and VMware on AWS Lead — VMware
2020	Senior Technical Trainer — VMware Carbon Black
2019–2020	Technical Trainer — Anomali

2018–2019	HR Training and Communications Manager — SnapAV
2015–2018	Mid-Level Manager, Instructional Design — CPI Security
2014–2015	Program Manager, eLearning — Belk
2011–2013	Educational Technology Specialist — Wingate University

Education

June 2025	Ed.D., Instructional Design, Systems, and Technology — South College
November 2024	Ed.S., Instructional Design and Technology — South College
February 2023	M.S., IT Management — Western Governors University
August 2018	M.Ed., Instructional Systems Technology, Training and Development — UNC Charlotte
2014	B.A., Music Education — Wingate University

Certifications

- VMware Certified Cloud Infrastructure Administrator 2024
- Double VCP — Data Center Virtualization and Network Virtualization
- VMware Carbon Black Endpoint Protection 2020
- Fortinet FortiGate 7.4 Operator
- CompTIA Network+ ce

Honors and Awards

- Worldwide Training Delivery Impact Award
- Worldwide Sales and Strategy Acceleration Quarterly Award — Accelerator
- Team Member Excellence Award
- Best of Show

Research Focus

The application of artificial intelligence in career development programs, and evaluating the effectiveness of post-secondary career and technical education in preparing students for industry employment.

Areas of Expertise

- Cloud infrastructure across AWS, Azure, and Google Cloud
- AI technologies including LLMs, fine-tuning, RAG, and agentic development
- Virtualization, data center design, and network architecture
- Cybersecurity program development and instruction
- Curriculum design and instructional systems
- NSF grant leadership in CTE and AI workforce development
- Enterprise learning operations and modernization, ADDIE to Agile and SAM
- Learning management systems and learning analytics, including xAPI
- Industry-aligned community college pathways

Speaking Topics

- Building one of North Carolina's first associate-degree AI programs
- From enterprise tech training to community college leadership: what each side learns from the other
- Applied AI in the Honors classroom: lessons from Wingate's Applied Innovation course
- LLMs, RAG, and agentic development as instructional design tools
- Modernizing technical training: ADDIE to Agile at the speed of SaaS
- Building industry partnerships that actually serve students, with Red Hat and Palo Alto Networks as case studies
- xAPI and learning analytics for technical training programs
- From the music classroom to the server room: an instructional design career through-line

Industry Partnerships at Central Piedmont

- Red Hat
- Palo Alto Networks

Languages

English (native) · Spanish (limited working)

Notes for the Web Designer

Frazier prefers **Central Piedmont** rather than CPEC. A professional headshot is available on the UNC Charlotte School of Data Science faculty page at sds.charlotte.edu/frazier-smith. The voice should read as a technologist and educator with deep industry credibility — someone who has shipped enterprise training to working engineers and now builds programs for community college students. The Wingate-to-VMware-to-Wingate arc is a quietly powerful narrative thread worth surfacing somewhere on the About page.