Becca Williams

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Thought Distillery™

Experienced Agile servant-leader who unites distributed teams with **exceptional emotional intelligence** and a focus on **delivering value**; **Certified Scrum Professional (CSP), Certified ScrumMaster (CSM), Certified Scrum Product Owner (CSPO),** and **Certified Facilitator LEGO® SERIOUS PLAY®** .

Extensive knowledge of Scrum and how to fill in its intentional gaps, **business analysis**, **SaaS**, **SDLC**, startups, hackathons, WordPress administration, Microsoft Office, Teams, Azure DevOps, CA Agile Central (Rally), JIRA, Confluence, Trello, Slack, Balsamiq, Coggle, and other **software solutions/processes that empower remote teams.**

Principal Consultant + Owner August 2019 - present **Thought Distillery**
Contract Agile project management + business analysis services for organizations that value diversity and inclusion, solving wicked problems in education, healthcare, and social impact/justice and/or with new/emerging technologies.

- Bringing order to chaotic work streams where responsibilities aren't clear
- Setting teams up for success on new development efforts, establishing self-managing team behaviors
- Defining and refining requirements for complex solutions
- Writing user stories in language meaningful to business and technical stakeholders
- Idea generation
- Workshop planning/facilitation

Scrum Master + Business Analyst (Remote) October 2017 – August 2019 **Coda Global**

Coda Global is a fully distributed technology consulting firm specializing in Cloud-Native application development and cloud migration managed services with approximately 50 US-based employees and 100 employees in Chennai, India.
- Led a 7-figure, multi-national contributor, mission-critical software project that successfully went live with ~1000 users across 40 North American sites. This rollout was described as the smoothest launch the client company has seen in its history.
- Collected and analyzed business requirements for a variety of technology-powered solutions including Machine Learning for contract analysis using IBM Watson Element Classification and TensorFlow
- Facilitated traditional Scrum ceremonies including standups, sprint planning, sprint demos, and retrospectives
- Managed communication streams with clients, as well as budgets, timelines, hours, and distributed, global teams
- Designed and executed innovative workshops

Scrum Master (Remote) May 2016 - October 2017 [American Association of Insurance Services (AAIS)](#)

AAIS is an insurance advisory organization with approximately 60 employees, half of whom work remotely across all US time zones.

- Managed up to eight cross-functional, distributed team projects at a time, including relationships with third-party technology and consulting vendors for internal and SaaS products
- Championed the adoption of Agile/Scrum principles, ceremonies (sprint planning, retrospectives, release planning, standups, sprint reviews) and best practices
- Fostered staff and stakeholder collaboration through engaging facilitation, clear meeting goals, and action items

Business Analyst | Underwriting Rules Developer 2012-2016 [Reinsurance Group of America (RGA)](#)

RGA is a Fortune 500 company (#251) in financial services with approximately 2600 employees worldwide.

- Trained 50+ domestic and international users on automated underwriting processes/software
- Created underwriting rules for complex impaired annuities products in the UK market
- Introduced the concept of hackathons to RGA's leadership
- Founded and led the Entrepreneurs Inside group to encourage entrepreneurial thinking
- Helped establish a structured data model for a new automated underwriting rules engine (SaaS model) using ACORD standards for life insurance
- Implemented and led standups for a team responsible for support of legacy underwriting systems and new development
- Served as Product Owner for international underwriting systems and prioritized improvements

High School Spanish Teacher 2008-2012 [Francis Howell School District](#) - St. Charles, MO

- Taught Spanish I and 2 using SMART Technologies' SMART Board, hands-on projects and gamification

Middle School Art Teacher 2007-2008 [St. Louis Public Schools](#) - St. Louis, MO
- Taught Fundamentals of Art to 7th and 8th grade students in a public urban middle school

Education

- Master of Arts, Journalism | University of Missouri - Columbia
- Bachelor of Arts, Psychology | Webster University

Open-Source Projects

- My [Social Impact Research](#) - incubators and accelerators that support social enterprise founders, as well as pioneering companies to watch in sustainability, free online social impact courses, and finding social impact jobs
- My [Reinventing K-12 Education Research](#) - schools challenging the status quo model, resources for education professionals redesigning curricula, and critical questions regarding next-level education
- [My Diversity + Inclusion in Tech Research](#)
- [My Experience Winning GlobalHack V](#) | St. Louis