

Erick Mercado

(209)-201-6982 | erick.mercado2016@gmail.com | [linkedin.com/in/erick-mercado](https://www.linkedin.com/in/erick-mercado)

EDUCATION

University of California, Irvine

Bachelor of Science in Computer Engineering

Irvine, CA

Aug. 2020 – June 2023

EXPERIENCE

Embedded Software Engineer II | *Active Secret Clearance*

Embedded Software Engineer

Raytheon Intelligence & Space

July 2026 – Present

Aug. 2023 – July 2026

El Segundo, CA

- Authored two internal R&D (IRAD) concept proposals for next-generation electronic warfare capabilities, defining operational use cases, system concepts, and industry teaming strategy; earned senior leadership review and follow-on engagement with the Advanced Programs organization
- Identified a recurring diagnostic bottleneck for flight-test users and contributed to a parametric data collection system for aircraft instrumentation, cutting issue-diagnosis time and saving tens of thousands of dollars annually in overhead
- Represented software in cross-functional design reviews, translating system requirements into UML architecture decisions for an advanced EW platform built on PolarFire and Stratix 10 FPGAs
- Defined and drove adoption of model configuration-management protocols (IBM RSA) across the engineering team, eliminating version conflicts and protecting codebase integrity
- Standardized Kernel and U-Boot build procedures through documentation adopted across the program, reducing ramp-up friction for incoming developers

Project Manager

SMAC-FIRE Research Program

Aug. 2022 – June 2023

University of California, Irvine, CA

- Pitched and won full funding from a university panel by defining the product vision, technical approach, and budget justification for a wildfire-mapping drone research program
- Led a cross-functional team of undergraduate engineers from concept through delivery, shipping a working drone system that applied machine learning to wildfire spread analysis

Embedded Systems Program Lead

FSAE Anteater Electric Racing

Jan. 2022 – June 2023

University of California, Irvine, CA

- Owned the roadmap, budget allocation, and resource distribution for the embedded systems team, establishing development guidelines and documentation standards from zero
- Shipped a working prototype 4 months ahead of a 1-year schedule through disciplined prioritization and proactive risk mitigation

Technical Project Manager

NASA L'Space Mission Concept Academy

Aug. 2020 – Dec. 2020

Merritt Island, FL

- Selected for NASA's Pipeline Accelerator and Competency Enabler (PACE) program; managed a cross-functional team of engineers and scientists developing a conceptual unmanned mission to Enceladus
- Authored a mission proposal spanning design architecture, risk mitigation, schedule, and a \$400M budget breakdown – defended it before a live panel of NASA engineers in a Preliminary Design Review

Technical Project Manager

NASA Community College Aerospace Scholars (NCAS)

June 2019 – Oct. 2019

Johnson Space Center, Houston, TX

- Led a team of 11 engineers in defining mission protocols and procedures, delivering a fully operational rover prototype within the program timeline
- Presented a rover design proposal and funding strategy to a board of NASA engineers, earning program approval and recognition

CORE COMPETENCIES

Product & Strategy: Product Vision & Concept Development, Requirements Definition & Prioritization, Roadmap & Program Planning, Stakeholder Management, Cross-Functional Team Leadership, Budget Ownership, Executive Briefings & Proposals

Defense Domain: Electronic Warfare (EW), Embedded Systems, FPGA (PolarFire, Stratix 10), DoD Program Lifecycle, Configuration Management (IBM RSA, ClearCase)

Clearance: Active Secret Clearance

Technical Fluency: C/C++, Python, SQL, UML Modeling, VxWorks, Integrity RTOS, Wind River Workbench, LaTeX