



Rico Cassoni

Rico Cassoni is a U.S. Navy veteran, educator, and technologist with a distinguished career in nuclear engineering, IT, and higher education. Originally from Dayton, Ohio, Rico began his career in the Navy's Nuclear Power Program, later earning a BS in Applied Physics and commissioning as an officer. He served aboard advanced submarines including the USS *Topeka* and USS *Dolphin*, and retired as a Navy Commander (O-5) after commanding multiple Reserve units.

Transitioning to civilian life, Rico built a career in IT, holding roles at SAIC, the U.S. Navy as a Civil Servant, and IBM as a Senior Cloud Architect specializing in cloud, big data, and cybersecurity. He holds numerous industry certifications including CISSP, PMP, and DAWIA Level 3. He also earned a Master of Science in Business Administration – Information Systems (MSBA-IS) from San Diego State University.

In 2013, Rico began teaching computer science and MIS courses as associate faculty at MiraCosta and Palomar Colleges. He later accepted full-time positions at San Diego Mesa College (2014) and MiraCosta College (2015), where he focused on curriculum development in cybersecurity and cloud computing. His efforts led to the creation of the region's first Cyber Security AS degree and the launch of Club IT, the CSIT Department's student club.

In 2022, Rico transitioned from his full-time position to ease into retirement, continuing to teach as adjunct faculty. He currently teaches Management Information Systems (MIS) and Java Programming at MiraCosta, Miramar, and Grossmont Colleges. At Grossmont College, he loves putting his MIS knowledge, experience, and passion into teaching CSIS 110 – Principles of Information Systems.

Outside the classroom, Rico is a proud pickleball addict, an occasional golfer, and a passionate connoisseur of fine wine and food.