LAYLA SELLS

Engineering Manager
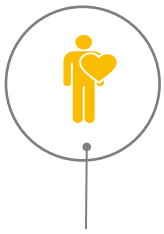
505.920.8696 📞
LaylaMSells@gmail.com ✉️

15+

Years leading people and projects

Accomplished leader with a proven history of successful creation and implementation of product and people strategies.

Expertise in coaching, team-building and motivation. Able to solve and communicate large, complex, and technical problems.

"Layla is hands down the best manager I have ever had!"

-- anonymized quote from my review feedback
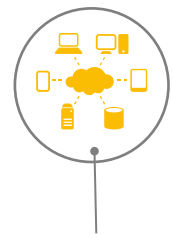
Motivate & Grow Others

Inspire Collaboration

Deliver Results

Creatively Solve Problems

Simplify Complexity

Google
Kirkland, WA
2019–Present

DevRel Eng Manager: Google Cloud Storage and Databases

Microsoft
Redmond, WA
2004–2019

Principal PM: Executive Office of the CTO
Director of DevX: Office Platform Content & Developer Tools
Manager of PM teams: Office Graphics, Visual Studio Languages
Senior Program Manager: .NET Common Language Runtime
Program Manager I & II: Office Live (Office 365), Tablet PC / Origami Experience
Test Tools Developer: Tablet PC

Los Alamos National Labs
Los Alamos, NM
1999–2002

Electrical Technician: Proton accelerator

Kinko's (now FedEx)
Santa Fe, NM
1998 – 1999

Team Lead, Corporate Account Manager

Master of Business Administration in Technology Management
Foster School of Business, University of Washington
June 2009

Bachelor of Science in Computer Science
New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology
December 2004

tl;dr I've worked on a range or products including early day Tablets, v1 services, compilers, and enterprise productivity. I've taken on big challenges and sought out ways to improve customer experiences. Throughout my career, as an individual contributor and as a manager, I've found ways to help coach and grow those around me. I love helping smart people tap into more of their potential.

Highlighted Technical Achievements

- Led a team of 12 engineers to handwrite SDKs and samples across GCP Storage & Database products
- Set the strategy for Office Developer Experience
- Added SVG and Icon support across suite of Office products, first new shapes since the 90's
- Led the effort to open source the C# and Visual Basic compilers and the Roslyn API surface area
- Revitalized the F# community, contributing to large increases in usage and contributions
- Responsible for CoreCLR in Silverlight 5, .NET 4.5 footprint reductions, and Interop
- Designed online Personalization and Campaign Management system; two patents filed, one issued
- Reduced customer escalations by 70% and eliminated #1 cause of unplanned Office Live outages
- Upgraded the operating system for the Microsoft sales force to enable them to start selling the product
- Developed Ultra-Mobile PC UI design guidelines and performance benchmarks
- Managed OEM relationship leading to first preinstall release of Origami Experience 2.0
- Created internal test tools still used and maintained by teams across Microsoft
- Improved quality by increasing code coverage for Mobile/Tablet PC Team (~300 people)

Leadership & People Accomplishments

- Created the Cloud DevRel Eng hiring guide
- Coached, mentored, and managed hundreds of Microsoft employees
- Wrote the content discipline level guide for Microsoft
- Rebuilt and transformed a cross discipline team, increasing both job satisfaction and business results
- People manager score of poll went from 38% positive to 92% within one year
- Led teams of technical Program Managers to achieve better people and product results
- Transformed teams from waterfall methodologies to agile
- Created and revitalized customer communication channels for improved satisfaction and product improvements
- Contributed to a Microsoft-wide assessment tool for managers to identify where their team has gaps in skills and capabilities
- Co-founded the DevDiv Women's Leadership Council
- Volunteered with DigiGirls, IGNITE, and STEM to help inspire girls in technology
- Recruited and interviewed new developers, technical employees for projects
- Partnered with HR to develop new training for managers at Microsoft
- Co-creator of a Networking Learning Path for Microsoft, including a Networking guide
- Regular panelist and conference speaker ranging from Microsoft internal Engineering Excellence classes to international conferences. Topics ranged from soft-skills to deep technical concepts
- Led team-wide giving campaign as the Vice President Appointed Leader

Additional Trainings

- Certified Life Coach, through The Life Coach School
- 72hr Goal Imagery Institute Life, Career, & Executive Coach Training
- Yoga teacher training (200hr program)
- Certificate for Completion of Five Week Teaching in the Workplace
- Leadership and Personal Growth Programs (participant and facilitator)

Awards

- BOS (Office 365) Leadership Award
- Foster School of Business Keeper Award
- Windows Hero Award