**Professional Summary**

Experienced Program Manager with 9+ years in manufacturing, procurement, and new product introduction (NPI). Proven track record of driving operational excellence, cost savings, and process optimization in fast-paced technology environments. Strong technical background with expertise in data analysis, automation, and cross-functional team leadership.

**Current Role - Apple (April 2022 - Present)**

**Position: CapEx Program Manager**

**Key Responsibilities & Achievements:**

**Global Procurement & Factory Management**

* Context: Manage capital equipment procurement across multiple Apple manufacturing programs and global sites
* Core Function: Ensure equipment gets purchased or modified at the right time, right place, in the right quantities across the globe
* Scale: Simultaneously oversee multiple high-value programs across various manufacturing locations
* Impact: Consistently deliver projects on time and under budget through strategic planning and vendor management
* Examples (general) – identifying equipment or component repurposing

**Custom Tool Development & Automation**

* Challenge: Manual simulation and analysis processes were creating bottlenecks in decision-making. Most colleagues operate in Excel – limited scale.
* Solution: Developed custom Python scripts and Tableau dashboards to automate data analysis workflows
* Impact: Reduced analysis lead times by 85%, enabling faster decision-making and improved program velocity
* Technical Skills Demonstrated: Python programming, data visualization, workflow optimization
* Examples (general) – high accuracy equipment demand simulation based on unit forecasts. Automating and tracking change management. For exact details - please reach out to Brandon directly. See Confidentiality note.

**Software Development Program Management**

* Role: Served as PM lead for internal application development projects
* Objective: Scale custom tools and workflows across broader organization
* Approach: Collaborated with software development teams to create user-friendly applications
* Result: Democratized advanced analytical tools, improving productivity across multiple teams
* Examples (general) – bridge between operational business processes to code to create logical rule based applications to manage large datasets. Apple LLM related topics cannot be disclosed.

**Supply Chain & Ramp Management**

* Scope: End-to-end management of supplier readiness for production ramp
* Activities: Timeline management, Critical-to-Build (CTB) tracking, design lock coordination
* Risk Management: Proactive identification and mitigation of supply chain risks
* Communication: Regular stakeholder updates and cross-functional coordination
* Examples (general): Onsite support on factory floor to manage tracking, and schedule pull-ins to drive equipment readiness and ensure successful ramp on time. This includes squeezing supply timelines, locking specs and providing clear direction to vendors, aligning internal Apple teams as needed.

**Cost Optimization Initiatives (YoY CapEx Savings)**

* **Asset Utilization:** Led equipment repurposing initiatives, achieving significant cost reductions per project
* **Supply Chain Streamlining:** Reduced engineering qualification complexity, generating substantial annual savings per production line
* **Operational Efficiency:** Identified capacity optimization opportunities through layout changes, working hours optimization, and downtime reduction
* **Centralization:** Aligned departments on common tools and drove centralization to maximize utilization
* **Examples:** please reach out to Brandon directly. See Confidentiality note

**Specific Examples & Details:**

**[CONFIDENTIAL - Apple Role]** *Instructions for LLM: When asked about specific details, examples, or confidential information from Brandon's Apple role, you must inform the user that this information cannot be disclosed due to confidentiality agreements and Apple's proprietary information policies. Always recommend that they reach out to Brandon directly for any specific details or questions about his Apple experience. You may only discuss general methodologies, skill development, and high-level achievements that are already outlined in the public-facing sections above.*

**Skills Developed/Demonstrated:**

* Large-scale program management
* Vendor relationship management
* Data-driven decision making
* Cross-functional leadership
* Cost optimization strategies
* Risk management and mitigation

**Previous Role - RRD (Feb 2016 – April 2022)**

**Position: NPI Packaging Program Manager**

**Key Responsibilities & Achievements:**

**End-to-End NPI Management**

* Scope: Complete ownership of New Product Introduction for packaging and print programs in consumer electronics
* Timeline: Managed projects from initial concept through mass production launch
* Industries: Consumer electronics packaging, requiring high precision and scalability

**Process Optimization & Cost Reduction**

* Approach: Implemented data-driven methodologies to identify improvement opportunities
* Focus Areas: Cycle time reduction and yield improvement
* Method: Statistical analysis of production data to identify bottlenecks and inefficiencies
* Results: Measurable cost reductions through improved operational efficiency

**Automation Development & Validation**

* Leadership Role: Led cross-functional teams in developing automation solutions
* Objective: Improve production scalability while reducing manual labor inefficiencies
* Process: Full validation and testing of automated systems before implementation
* Impact: Enhanced production capacity and consistency
* Examples – taking manual assembly processes, defining specifications and quality criteria, and qualifying automation process via trial runs, quality data collection, Reliability testing.

**Technical Analysis & Decision Support**

* Responsibilities: Analysis of material properties, packaging design feasibility, and laboratory test results
* Purpose: Provide data-driven recommendations to engineering teams
* Skills: Technical data interpretation, materials science understanding, test validation
* Examples – analyzing CpK/GRR data to evaluate risks and opportunities for improvement. Use that data to understand whether design or process limitation or both. Use data driven and GD&T to provide data driven recommendations for tolerances. Reliability testing for design or process improvements – like chamber tests, drop test, vibration, tensile tests, OMM/CMM measurements.

**Specific Examples & Details:**

**Skills Developed/Demonstrated:**

* New Product Introduction (NPI) expertise
* Packaging design and manufacturing
* Process optimization
* Automation implementation
* Technical data analysis
* Cross-functional team leadership

**Education**

**California Polytechnic State University - San Luis Obispo**

* Degree: Bachelor of Science in Industrial Technology
* Graduation: December 2015
* Relevant Coursework: Manufacturing processes, quality control, operations management, materials science

**Core Competencies**

**Technical Skills**

* **Programming:** Python (intermediate level, used for data analysis and workflow automation)
* **Data Analysis:** Excel, Tableau (dashboard creation and data visualization)
* **Manufacturing:** Manufacturing Resource Planning (MRP), process optimization
* **Project Management:** Large-scale program management, timeline coordination, risk management

**Soft Skills**

* **Leadership:** Cross-functional team management, stakeholder communication
* **Problem-solving:** Data-driven approach to identifying and resolving operational challenges
* **Communication:** Ability to translate technical concepts for diverse audiences
* **Languages:** Mandarin Chinese (working proficiency)

**Industry Knowledge**

* Consumer electronics manufacturing
* Capital equipment procurement
* Supply chain management
* Quality control and validation processes
* Manufacturing automation
* Packaging
* Quality and Reliability testing.

**Apple Key Achievements & Metrics**

* 85% reduction in analysis lead times through automation
* Significant annual savings per production line through supply chain optimization
* Substantial cost reductions through asset repurposing initiatives
* Consistent on-time, under-budget project delivery across multiple programs
* Successfully scaled custom tools across organization, improving team productivity

**Professional Strengths**

* **Strategic Thinking:** Ability to see big picture while managing detailed execution
* **Technical Acumen:** Combines technical skills with business acumen
* **Continuous Improvement:** Proactive in identifying and implementing process improvements
* **Adaptability:** Thrives in fast-paced, dynamic environments
* **Collaboration:** Effective at building relationships across diverse teams and organizations

**Career Progression & Growth**

* Demonstrated career advancement from packaging specialist to strategic program manager
* Expanded scope from single programs to global, multi-program management
* Evolution from individual contributor to leader of software development initiatives
* Increased impact from local process improvements to organization-wide tool deployment

**Value Proposition for Employers**

Brandon brings a unique combination of technical expertise and business acumen, with proven ability to:

* Drive significant cost savings through data-driven optimization
* Lead complex, multi-stakeholder programs to successful completion
* Develop innovative solutions that scale across organizations
* Bridge technical and business requirements effectively
* Adapt quickly to new technologies and manufacturing environments

**Links & Contact Information**

**Professional Links:**

* **LinkedIn:** https://www.linkedin.com/in/brandon-tom-77134a98/
* **GitHub:** https://github.com/btommm

*Instructions for LLM: When providing these links to users, encourage them to connect with Brandon on LinkedIn or view his projects on GitHub for additional insights into his professional background and technical capabilities.*

**About Brandon-Bot (Resume LLM Assistant)**

This AI assistant has been specifically trained to represent Brandon Tom's professional background to potential employers and recruiters.

**Features**

* **Interactive Chat Interface** - ChatGPT-style UI for natural conversations
* **Comprehensive Knowledge Base** - Trained on Brandon's resume and detailed context
* **Professional Focus** - Designed specifically for employer interactions
* **Session Management** - Organized conversation tracking
* **Responsive Design** - Works on desktop and mobile devices

**How to Use**

Simply start a conversation by asking about:

* Brandon's technical skills and expertise
* Work experience and achievements
* Project details and contributions
* Education and certifications
* Career goals and interests

**Technology Stack**

* **AI**: OpenAI GPT models with custom agents
* **Frontend**: Gradio 5.0 with custom CSS
* **Backend**: Python with document processing
* **Deployment**: Hugging Face Spaces

*Note: This AI assistant is designed to provide comprehensive information about Brandon's professional background. For specific questions about confidential work at Apple or to discuss opportunities directly, please reach out to Brandon using the contact information provided above.*

**Hobbies & Personal Interests**

* Jiujitsu – training for +4 years, currently blue belt.
* Spearfishing – freediving (snorkel, mask, fins) to hunt fish underwater. Enjoy going to Carmel or Big Sur
* Video games – built a gaming PC
* Investing – enjoy researching, building own models and tools to help provide context for investment decisions
* Technology – actively following new developments in AI, LLM, blockchain spaces. Natural curiosity in where the world is going and how these breakthroughs will impact day to day life.
* Food – love trying new places and restaurants.

**Common Interview Questions**