As a young African professional from Nigeria, I have the ambition to conquer and a zeal to push through obstacles against all odds. I would say I have come a long way but have still some very crucial distance to cover to achieve success in my life’s journey. Growing up in a financially challenged background in Nigeria made me hunger not only for food but for knowledge in the domain of business. As a little boy, I watched my family go through numerous financial struggles when my father’s business suffered and did not evolve because of a lack of implementation of technology and informed decision-making. This made me long for a deep understanding of business and finance professionally. In emerging economies like Nigeria specifically, numerous businesses encounter obstacles pertaining to data handling and ease of integrating business and technology. I seek to become a visionary leader in the business sphere with leverage on technology and its tools to influence growth through data-driven decision-making. I want to help bridge knowledge gaps using principles from business and technology to create more opportunities in emerging markets in various parts of Africa and Nigeria specifically. The MBA-MS in Information Technology Management at the Lubar School of Business will equip me with the necessary skill set to be proficient in Business and handling Data to make informed customer and business-oriented decisions, especially within my community. My plan is to use the knowledge gained from this degree to become more proficient in the field of Business Technology in order to be an asset to my community.

My undergraduate program in Management at the University of PortHarcourt created an opportunity for me to be first exposed to the business sphere. Although it has been a few years since I graduated, I am an independent learner who is continuously cultivating the habit of growth in technology and business. I suffered some lapses in my undergraduate program which affected my grades but most importantly informed me to take this coordinated MBA-MS in ITM program. However, I did not let myself be hindered from graduating and making up for my grades. Since I graduated, I have taken proactive steps to gain expertise in industry and measured up with colleagues who have been seen to have better grades academically. I show tracks of not being a product of my grades and I have made it my personal mission to break boundaries irrespective. Through online resources, I was able to teach myself programming in Python and responsive web design. I have also taken other paid online-based courses that have given me insight into the multi-faceted components of technology of business. From online resources such as Udemy, Coursera, and Free Code Camp, I have been able to gain exceptional skills that I directly apply to my current workplace. As a member of the Data Science Enthusiast cohort, I am also learning skills that will help me leverage opportunities in the world of information technology and business. Through my career journey, I have also been exposed to how proper information technology management is crucial to making an informed decision for both consumers and businesses at large. Attaining this degree will help me learn to solve problems, troubleshoot, and navigate the business sphere in Nigeria.

In my professional development, I accepted the position of customer engagement support lead for Access Bank, the largest commercial bank by customer base in Nigeria. At Access bank my team and I collaborated with the digital banking unit to pioneer the sale of Access Bank digital loan products. This position launched me to further appreciate technology and how impactful information management is to the growth and development of sales activities. I was exposed to millions of data and properly compiled reports for the digital banking team to influence the products that were customer orientated to increase our profit and sales margins. My experience and achievement guided me to my current position which is more of a leadership and executive position. I currently serve as the growth and revenue lead (Credit and Risk) at Evolve credit, a seed-funded Financial Technology (FinTech) company based in Nigeria. My role involves reviewing and making the final decision on credit facilities, handling partnership formulation and relationship management for our Business to Business (B2B) and Business to Clients (B2C) respectively while ensuring data protection and its compliance. My career started as an inventory officer for a health care company straight out of my undergraduate program, where I was first exposed to data handling, informed decision making and, managing people at work. Being an inventory officer gave me the opportunity to solidify my skillset in logistics inventory and procurement. I was also able to expand my skills in creating inventories for both medical and non-medical consumables.

My career path over the last four years has guided me to this point and has influenced my decision to pursue this program. I will apply knowledge and expertise gained from my previous positions to excel in Graduate Assistantships while pursuing my program at the prestigious University of Wisconsin-Milwuakee. I am qualified to excel in any opportunity as a natural-born leader with excellent managerial, interpersonal, and communication skills. Additionally, I tell compelling stories and report insights to my team using data analysis reporting techniques. However, I had always been fascinated by technology and its immense advantage in business and management, I wanted to expand my technical expertise in the application of data handling to real business in a fast-paced environment. Data handling issues encountered at my workplace have led me to work on expanding my expertise in the field of Business and Information Technology at Lubar School of Business. I am interested in gaining skills to manage businesses efficiently, in order to solve the problem of keeping, redefining, and leveraging informed decisions from data handling in a market like Nigeria where we have little or unstructured data. I am energized about taking the core MBA classes and the core MS-ITM classes. I am particularly eager to take the BUS-ADM 749 Data and Information Management, specifically focused on all data structures, data integrity management, data representation, administration, and reporting. I am certain that this program is a perfect blend to correct and sharpen my professional career on a global level. My informational session with Ms. Cathleen and Mr. John from Recruitment and admissions also helped in solidifying my decisions to pursue this process.

I believe I am strongly rooted in a position to excel and be an outstanding graduate student. The Lubar school of business is the most suited environment for me to achieve my academic pursuit. The opportunity to join this program will enable me to effect change in my community by tackling the immense knowledge gap in the field of business and information technology in Nigeria. Knowledge gained from this degree will open several doors for me to manage the exponential business opportunities that are yet untapped due to lack of proper management of resources and data handling. Seizing these opportunities will give me the chance to become an entrepreneurial asset to my community and an agent of Transformation. These stated goals align with my core values and the vision statement of the prestigious Lubar School of Business at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.