Your personal business plan should include a long-term vision statement, the "external" opportunities that exist, your "internal" (personal) strengths, and a strategy for yourself and your life over the next two to five years. In addition, please share one "failure" from your past and what you learned from it in terms of maximizing your potential for the future.

The assignment should consist of a succinct essay (up to 750 words in bullet points or prose) that summarizes the areas discussed below, as well as the one "failure" wherever you feel it best fits.

**Vision and Opportunity**

What are your goals (career and/or educational) after this class?

My goal is to become a computer science teacher. I didn’t realise this vocation until I was asked to be a Community TA for Berkeley's online SaaS course run on the edX platform. It was this experience that fully made me realize the satisfaction I felt in helping others learn.

What is your purpose, your values and your mission?

Due to circumstance beyond my control I returned to education and found that I loved it. I have a talent for computers, I love communicating and I greatly admire the educators who have helped me over the last couple of years. It would be a privilege for me to emulate such people and positively influence future generations.

At present I am living in Northern Ireland but I used to reside in London where my ten year old daughter, Victoria, is at Primary School. I don't think that Victoria should grow up without her dad and this is the main reason I want to return to London.

My mission is to enthuse future generations about technology and the business of technology.

What is the market and opportunity that align with your goals?

As a future technology educator I would also be interested in working with hi-tech education companies and government to act as an early adopter for new products and ideas.

**Marketing and Implementation Strategy**

As a mature student with an abundance of management experience coupled with well tuned communication skills I can immediately take responsibility for a class and get the optimum from each student.

By recently completing a bricks and mortar degree and continuing my studies online I have a unique insight into what works well in each domain and I am a firm believer that combining the best of online and offline models can only improve the performance of all students.

In line with my background I am interested in the business of technology and as an extracurricular activity I would be keen on running a 'Venture-Lab' club for students.

**Risks and Mitigation**

What are the key milestones and checkpoints in your plan?   
There are two routes into teaching. The first way is the traditional route via a teaching certificate and teacher training. The alternative route which is for people with sufficient working experience is to go direct into teaching while doing a part-time teacher training course.

How will you measure/determine if you have successfully attained these milestones? How do you define success?   
Success is becoming a qualified teacher.

What external factors might affect (positively or adversely) your attaining success?   
Develop contingency and risk mitigation strategies.

I have applied for both the direct and traditional routes into teaching.

**Personal Board of Directors**

My favourite teacher, Mary Caniff

My favourite boss, David Wilf or Toshihiko Tanegashima

My favourite Politian, Tony Blair or Bill Clinton

**Failure**

My biggest failure is not saying no at the right time. The lesson learnt is that in conversation sometimes you are requested to make choices which, upon reflection, may have a major impact in the future. However trivial it may appear at the time, make sure you give yourself time to think through the choices you are being asked to make.

Upon graduating from The University of Ulster with a Masters degree in Computing (awarded with distinction) I was one of the first people to take Prof. Andrew Ng's online course in Machine Learning obtaining a mark of 99%. Since then I have taken over 15 online courses offered by universities as diverse as Princeton, Berkeley, Stanford and Michigan in the US, EPFL in Switzerland as well as IIIT/IIT in India.

If I stay in Northern Ireland I would like to continue my work with the Alliance Party but if I move back to England I will probably join our sister party, the Liberal Democrats.