Uchenna Mgbaja

Program Leader | Applied AI & Data Analytics | Public-Sector Innovation
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Summary

PMP®-certified Project Manager with 10+ years of experience delivering complex, high-risk technology initiatives in regulated and public-sector environments. Proven ability to lead cross-functional teams, manage vendors, oversee budgets, and ensure compliance with privacy, security, and governance requirements. Extensive experience translating operational needs into actionable project plans for data-driven and digital solutions supporting public services, community programs, and mission-critical systems.

Core Leadership Competencies

- Project Management
- Public-Sector & Governance-Driven Delivery
- Vendor & Stakeholder Management
- Privacy, Security & Risk Management
- Budgeting, Forecasting & Financial Reporting
- Digital Platforms & Data Systems
- Executive & Steering Committee Reporting
- Change Management & Adoption

Professional Experience

Project Manager/ Technology Instructor (AI & Machine Learning)   Dec 2022 - Present
Norquest College, Edmonton, AB, Canada

- Led planning, execution, and delivery of complex digital and data-driven projects supporting municipal, nonprofit, and industry stakeholders.
- Managed cross-functional teams delivering end-to-end technology solutions, including data integration, analytics platforms, and digital workflows.
- Oversaw project scope, schedules, risks, dependencies, and reporting, ensuring alignment with institutional governance and compliance standards.
- Directed projects involving sensitive datasets, ensuring privacy, ethical use, and compliance with public-sector data-handling requirements.
- Coordinated with external vendors and partners (municipal agencies, technology providers, sponsors) to deliver projects on time and within scope.
- Implemented formal project controls including status reporting, risk logs, mitigation strategies, and stakeholder briefings.
- Supported adoption and change management by translating technical outcomes into operational value for non-technical stakeholders.
  Key Projects
- Municipal logistics optimization project supporting community service delivery.
- City-partnered data initiatives informing operational and policy decisions.
- Large-scale, multi-stakeholder technology initiatives with governance oversight.

Program Facilitator,   Feb 2023 - Present
NAIT, Edmonton, AB, Canada

- Facilitate technical instruction aligned with industry standards using cloud-based process engineering simulations.
- Collaborate with faculty to align curriculum with evolving industry practices and accreditation needs.

Data Analyst, Data Transformation & Operations   January 2019 – December 2022
Thinkers' Corner (Remote)

- Led analytics initiatives supporting operational forecasting, performance reporting, and executive decision-making.

- Designed dashboards and reporting solutions using Power BI, Tableau, and Excel.
- Managed distributed technical teams, coordinating delivery timelines and quality assurance.
- Supported budget optimization and performance monitoring for client programs.

Project Management & Leadership Instructor   May 2020 – December 2022
Reeves College, Edmonton, AB, Canada
- Delivered courses in project management and business administration.
- Implemented productivity and workflow templates that improved student performance and job readiness in digital marketing and database management roles.

Petroleum Engineering & Project Management Instructor   July 2018 – May 2020
CDI College, Edmonton, AB, Canada
- Taught oil and gas administration courses including geology, drilling, completions, and production.
- Integrated industry software (GeoScout) into instruction; achieved teaching performance reviews in the 90th percentile.

Vice President, Training & Development   July 2017 – May 2018
Institute of Drilling & Petroleum Engineering, Lagos, Nigeria
- Provided strategic leadership for training programs, faculty development, and curriculum renewal.
- Led competency-based training initiatives for engineering professionals and designed learning management systems (LMS) to support scalable delivery.

Managing Partner   November 2015 – June 2017
Smart & Skilled Associates, Ltd, Lagos, Nigeria
- Designed and delivered industry-focused coaching and professional development programs.
- Led client acquisition, contract negotiation, and applied research initiatives; published in the Society of Petroleum Engineers (SPE) Journal.

Director of Curriculum/Training Facilitator   January 2012 – November 2015
Oil & Gas Soft-Skills, Lagos, Nigeria
- Directed curriculum design aligned with industry competency standards.
- Coached instructors and administrators, coordinated client engagements, and led development of an interactive learning portal following Industry best practices.

Early Career Engineering Roles
Project Engineer, MGI Oil & Gas Services, Lagos, Nigeria | Jan 2008 – Nov 2010
Field Engineer, Schlumberger Oilfield Services, Alberta, Canada | Jul 2006 – Dec 2007

Education

Doctoral Candidate, Artificial Intelligence , LIGS University
Focus: Tokenization bias, NLP fairness, AI governance
Expected completion: 2026
Msc. degree Financial Engineering (In Progress), WorldQuant University
Focus: Quantitative Risk Management, Machine Learning for Finance, Portfolio Theory, Derivatives, and Time Series Analysis.
Msc. degree Petroleum Engineering & Project Development, Institute of Petroleum Studies, IFP School.
Focus: Reservoir engineering, project development, and oil & gas operations.
BEng. degree Electronic Engineering, University of Nigeria, Nsukka, Nigeria
Focus: Communications, control systems, and applied electronics.

Certifications

Project Management Professional (PMP)® - Project Management Institute, PMI.;
Machine Learning Engineer – FourthBrain;
Machine Learning Technician - Alberta Machine Intelligence Institute, Amii, Edmonton, AB

Awards & Recognition

- **Alberta Science & Technology Award (AsTech)** for Excellence in Technology Education
- **Published applied analytics research**, *Statistics Canada Data Science Network*
- **Local Lead**, NASA Space Apps Challenge – Edmonton (large-scale, multi-stakeholder public innovation initiative)

Selected Publications (Applied & Public-Sector relevant)

- **Mgbaja, U. et al. (2024).** *Data to Decisions: Visualizations and ML Modeling of Rental Property Data.* Statistics Canada Data Science Network.
- **Mgbaja, U. (2024).** *Interpretable Uplift Modeling for Targeted Decision-Making.* ResearchGate.