Since arriving in the United States on August 1, 2019, I have been dedicated to advancing both my academic and professional development in the field of computer science. I initially enrolled in a Master’s program in Computer Science, which I successfully completed on May 15, 2021. As a graduate of a designated STEM program, I became eligible for Optional Practical Training (OPT), which granted me work authorization for one year, followed by an additional two years under the STEM OPT extension.

During this time, I was employed by Capgemini as a Software Consultant, where I was placed on a high-impact assignment with Fidelity Investments. My performance and contributions on this project were recognized as exceptional, and within a year, Fidelity expressed strong interest in converting me to a full-time employee. However, due to my visa status under the F-1 STEM OPT program—a visa type not directly supported by Fidelity—the transition was not possible.

Over the course of three consecutive years, I submitted my name to the H-1B visa lottery. Unfortunately, I was not selected in any of those attempts, despite the clear and consistent support from Fidelity and my demonstrated value on critical technology projects. In 2022, Fidelity continued to advocate for my retention by exploring alternate legal pathways. Due to Capgemini’s contractual restrictions on direct hiring, Fidelity arranged for my transition to Capco, a vendor with an existing Statement of Work (SOW). However, Capco also did not recognize F-1 STEM OPT for employment purposes.

To maintain lawful status in the U.S. and continue contributing to Fidelity’s initiatives, I enrolled in a second Master’s program under Day 1 CPT. This allowed me to legally continue working while pursuing additional education. Capco, in turn, placed me through their affiliated vendor, The Staffed 360 LLC, which formally employed me while I worked as a consultant for Fidelity. Throughout this transition, my role, responsibilities, and level of impact at Fidelity remained consistent—and even grew—as I assumed more leadership and architectural duties.

Despite four consecutive unsuccessful H-1B lottery attempts, Fidelity remains committed to retaining me due to the significant impact of my work. As such, I am now pursuing an O-1A visa to continue making extraordinary contributions in the U.S. technology sector, supported by evidence of sustained excellence, recognition from leadership, and high-value innovations in cloud architecture and infrastructure engineering.