

Zain Ali

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A lifelong learner focused on developing applied higher education programs that allow students to recognize and achieve their personal and professional goals. Recognized for starting several successful initiatives by listening to the voice of the constituents, building cross-functional collaborative teams, and remaining focused till successful completion.

Sample Accomplishments

- Hired by the Dean at UNT to turn around and successfully deliver on presidents' vision of an undergraduate program where students can immediately apply their classroom learning and be career ready upon graduation in three years.
- Worked as part of two teams that worked with Texas Higher Education Control Board (THECB) to get BS in Project Design & Analysis approved in 2020 and excepted approval of a Doctor Business Administration in 2022.
- Collaborated with cross functional teams from UNT colleges, marketing, enrolment, international affairs, endowment, recruitment, and admissions to grow undergraduate and graduate programs at the new UNT at Frisco campus
- Designed and developed eight new undergraduate and graduate classes in the problem-based learning pedagogy where students work on real projects with industry partners and no pre-defined answers with a focus on peer-to-peer learning
- Became a doctoral candidate in Educational Technologies to build on my engineering and technical background with four publications in peer reviewed journals or book chapters since 2019 with eight different authors.
- Worked on global business transformational programs with over 65 start-ups to Fortune 10 clients as part of Accenture, Wipro, The Hackett Group, Sunbonn to increase revenue, decrease costs or bring new products or services to market.
- Started a global technology company (Sunbonn) in 2009 and an executive education company (Azvantage) in 2014 which continue to serve clients with 65 associates in 3 countries. Developed three educational products including Adaptive Learning 360 focused on using data analytics and machine learning for career readiness and leadership development.

Education

PhD Learning Technologies, College of Information Science (doctoral candidate)

University of North Texas, Denton, TX July 2022 (expected)

MS Industrial Engineering, College of Engineering

Wichita State University, Wichita, KS May 1992

BS Electrical Engineering, College of Engineering

Wichita State University, Wichita, KS July 1989

Academic Experience

University of North Texas, Frisco TX November 2018- present

Director Graduate Studies March 2021 – present

- Worked with the dean of Toulouse Graduate School to define the graduate program strategy for the Frisco campus, conducted research on inspirational universities, surveyed 69 businesses in Frisco to define and launch three new certificates and tweaked two existing degrees and launch new DBA and Professional MBA starting Fall 2023.
- Worked with marketing to completely revamp the Frisco graduate website, develop marketing collateral, improved search engine optimization to increase graduate web traffic by 35% and decrease ad word costs by 22%
- Created partnership with KEIT university in Pakistan for a "Head Start" graduate students' program in Advanced Data Analytics where students can take two classes online from Pakistan and complete the master's degree in one year in USA.
- Collaborated with Pakistani executives, International Office, and Advancement to create a new *Pay it Forward Pakistani Scholarship* with an initial commitment of \$60,000, with Society of Information Management (SIM) to create a "Women in Data Analytics" Scholarship for graduate students and with Sunbonn for foundational scholarship for minority students
- Established and lead the Frisco Graduate Council consisting of cross college members from UNT and business partners that provide business input for new graduate programs, student mentorship, scholarships, and projects.

Program Director Nov 2018 - Feb 2021

- Helped design the applied BS degree in Project, Design and Analysis which was approved by THECB in 2020. Collaborated with multi-disciplinary faculty to offer cohort-based classes where all classes revolve their curriculum around the industry project for the semester. Participated in all the recruitment sessions in the first two years of program to launch the degree with 23 students in first and 27 students in the second year
- Received a \$5K grant to conduct a Problem Based Learning workshop for faculty teaching in the PDA program

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- Recognized by Education 2.0 for Adaptive Learning 360 as an innovative education technology product that will use MOOCS and adaptive learning for leadership development and helping students be career ready upon graduation.

Teaching

University of North Texas, Denton, TX and Frisco, TX

Assistant Clinical Professor

July 2019 - present

- Designed and taught five classes in the BS Project Design and Analysis program in the areas of Collaborative Thinking, Team Creativity, Professional Communications, Operational Decision Making and Applied Innovation. Each class included a lab also where students worked with corporations such as nThrive, Savista, City of Frisco and Toyota to bring real projects into the classroom with no predefined answers. Students did requirement gathering, data collection, data analysis, research, periodic touch points with partners and a final recommendations presentation.
- Additional classes taught include Managing a 21st Century Career, Scholarly Research and Internships for students which included applied research, design thinking and project proposals in online, face to face and hybrid modalities.
- Designed and received Graduate Council approval on Leadership in Program Management Graduate Certificate with four classes on program leadership, structured problem solving, Agile and Enterprise Architecture
- High involvement with students and corporations by bringing internships to UNT from Lexipol, nThrive, Savista, RSM, City of Frisco, iCode and Texas Instruments. Consistently providing references and connections on LinkedIn.
- Recognized by students on LinkedIn posts for mentorship as well as 5/5 rating on rate my professor
- Recognized by UNT and media for academic program excellence including coverage in Presidents annual report, UNT website, Faculty highlight, VieTV, Frisco Community Impact and Frisco City Lifestyle <https://zainali.pro/>

Southern Methodist University, Dallas, TX

Instructor, Business Leadership Center and Certificate program

Nov 2016 - Present

- Teach an annual "Cultivate Your Leader" workshop for MBA students at the SMU Business Leadership Center since 2017. Received "Teaching Excellence Award" in Fall 2018 and Spring 2022 by receiving 4.8 rating by students.
- Taught social media integration into corporate data analytics class in the SMU Data Analytics Certificate Program for three years with the highest ranking of all facilitators in two of the three years

University of Texas, Dallas, Dallas, TX

Adjunct Faculty, Executive Education

Nov 2018 - Jan 2021

- Developed and delivered a master's level course on "Key Decisions in Enterprise Architecture" which incorporated all aspects of enterprise architecture from sponsorship, application, data, infrastructure, security, and deployment for a work-related challenge with the student teams presenting their solution to class and their respective companies.

Publications

Ali Z., Meng N., Warren S., Lin L. (2022) Integrated Problem-Based Learning: A Case Study in an Undergraduate Cohort Degree Program. In: Spector M.J., Locke B.B., Childress M.D. (eds) Learning, Design, and Technology. Springer, Cham.

https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-17727-4_170-1. 19. NY,

NY: Springer. <https://link.springer.com/referencework/10.1007/978-3-319-17727-4?page=4#about>

Ali, Z., Knox, A., (2021). Gaming Leadership Development with Multi-Rater Assessments. Performance Improvement Quarterly. <https://doi-org.libproxy.library.unt.edu/10.1002/piq.21373>

Turner, J., Baker, R., Ali, Z., Thurlow, N. (2020). A New Multiteam System (MTS) Effectiveness Model. 8(2), 12. Basel: MDPI.

Meng, N., Dhimolea, T., Ali, Z., (press). Teaching and Learning Reimagined, book chapter in Bridging Human and Artificial Intelligence.

Presentation

Ali, Z., Meng, N., Lin, L. (2020) Key Lessons Learned in Problem Based Learning Case Study. AECT 2020 Convention Proceedings.

Z Ali, S Motavalli (1993). Requirements from a new generation of CAPP software, Proceeding Industrial Engineering Robotics conference, IIE, Norcross GA, 1993.

Executive Education Experience

Azvantage: Executive Education Provider - Dallas, TX

Founder, Executive Coach & Facilitator

Sep 2015 – present

- Deliver certified workshops and cohort programs in leadership development, sales, communications, building high performing teams, Six Sigma tailored to corporate clients such as Brightstar, Blue Green, Amerisource Bergen, Pepsico, Grapevine ISD, Dillards, Wipro, Intel, Capital One, LogistiCorp and Essilor.
- Lead faculty in one year “Deans & Chairs Leadership Development” cohort for UNT System with cohort members from UNT, UNT Dallas and UNT Health Science Center
- Provide executive coaching and advisory services to CxO and VP’s for startups and Fortune 500 companies.

Corporate Experience Highlights

Sunbonn: Global Technology Service Provider - Dallas, TX

May 2009 - present

Founder and Managing Partner

Grew company to 65 team members in 3 countries (USA, Saudi Arabia, and Pakistan) serving large companies and small startups. Example clients include Barnes & Noble Education, Saudi National Bank, Capital One, Essilor, Schlumberger, LogistiCorp, etc.

- Implemented mortgage data analytics and data management program for one of the largest banks in the USA.
- Developed an application that significantly automated the book adoption process for 900 universities with 800K uses with improved efficiency of 60%. Significantly reduced the time to adopt books and improved forecasting processes
- Constructed microfinance and business services portals for largest bank in the middle east that automated the manual processes and allowed the bank to service their clients in an B2B automated environment.
- Sponsored development of AL360 by leveraging domain knowledge in business requirements, application architecture, data visualization, machine learning, cyber security and legal documentation to bring solution to market

The Hackett Group: Global Benchmarking & Transformation Leader - Dallas, TX Sep 2008 - Jul 2009 & May 2003 - Apr 2004

Sr. Director – Business Transformation

- Reviewed bench marking data in finance, procurement, human resources, and information technology for global readouts in the areas of effectiveness and efficiency in their respective areas typically leading to transformation work
- Led the Finance transformation initiative to establish a global Finance shared services center in Dubai for Fortune 20 organization and standardized 80% of the financial processes on a global basis.
- Created IT transformational journey for global money transfer company to allow them to become a technology leader.
- Led the Oracle Customer Relationship Management (CRM) and Supply Chain Management (SCM) practices at Hackett to automate the business processes with Oracle eBusiness suite.

Global 360: BPM Software Provider - Dallas, TX

May 2007 - Sep 2008

Chief Information officer (CIO)

Key Accomplishments:

- Transformed a failing CRM implementation by redesigning business sales processes, securing sponsors, defining metrics, and aligning automation to ensure that it met all the stake holder expectations.
- Reduced \$2M in annual IT spend by standardizing and renegotiating telecommunication, internet services provision, and hardware procurement while improving the services provided to internal and external clients.
- Implemented a customized agile software development process and operation support to reduce cost and improve turnaround time on service calls by 100%.

NCH Corporation: Global Chemical Mfg. Company - Irving, TX

May 2004 - Apr 2007

Sr. Director Information Technology

Key Accomplishments:

- Performed the “as is” analysis for corporation in 52 countries to understand the sales and operations processes to define the global information technology strategy that would improve processes while reducing costs.
- Consolidated distribution centers and started a new distribution center in Czech Republic to service continents from new or existing major distribution centers in major cities around the world.
- Built an internal team that implemented the Oracle eBusiness Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) implementation that successfully proved the proof of concept and delivered the solution to the major hubs globally in the three years while supporting existing business applications on a global basis.

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Wipro – Global Technology Service Provider - Dallas, TX

Mar 2002 to May 2003

Regional Sales Director – ERP Applications

Key Accomplishments:

- Led sales team for Emerson Electric to secure Wipro as one of two preferred offshore vendors for Oracle Application implementation services across all divisions for the \$18 Billion conglomerate for work that continues till today
- Defined Corporate Standard ERP template to adopt standard templates in Finance, Procurement, Customer Relationship Management, Human Resources, Supply Chain, and Warehouse Management.
- Delivered major sales wins with clients including Sony, i2 and Best Buy by clearly understanding the business requirements for ERP implementations or support

Accenture – Management Consulting Services - Chicago, IL

May 1997 - Feb 2001

Sr. Manager – Electronics & High-Tech

Key Accomplishments:

- Delivered over 12 client projects of averaging \$5M in revenue and managing team of 5 to 35 consultants to lead major transformational projects at Raytheon, Mack Trucks, Renault VI Ford, AT&T, Singular, Takeda, etc.
- Built an internal \$2M internal Strategic Innovation Center for Product Development to look at innovative ways to improve their business functions in finance, procurement, customer management, HR and SCM

Bombardier Learjet – Business Jets Provider Wichita, KS

Jun 1992 - April 1997

Manager, Industrial Engineering

Key Accomplishments:

- Implemented newer technologies such as computer aided process planning and auto-riveting to reduce time in operations while making life easier for production personnel while improving aircraft manufacturing processes
- Part of team that implemented Manufacturing System (BMS) founded on the principles of lean six sigma and Toyota Production System. Worked in a cross functional team spread over four cities in three countries to standardize process from engineering design to jet deliver to the client for Learjet 30, Learjet 45, Learjet 60, Canadair RJ and DeHavilland aircrafts.

Bradbury Company – OEM Flexible Mfg. Systems, Moundridge, KS

Aug 1989 - May 1999

Design Engineer, Electrical Engineering

Key Accomplishments:

- Responsible for the electrical design from very simple to complex manufacturing Flexible Manufacturing Systems (FMS). Designed the electricals as well as the configuration of Programmable Logic Computers (PLC) and assembly language coding to automate the manufacturing line by using various kinds of sensors.

Personal

- First in my generation to get a college degree; came to USA with \$500 in my pocket to study at Wichita State with tuition fee paid by family. Firm believer that education not only changes the person but generations to follow
- Track record of creating an inclusive work culture of diversified backgrounds has led to educational belief the DEI contributes to an improved learning opportunity for everyone. Humble beginnings and male dominated engineering education at WSU have made me an advocate for minorities in technology and underprivileged students
- Focused on helping others via sharing network and knowledge via original LinkedIn articles (average 250 reads), blogs and my workshops based on my book Cultivate your Leader.

Technical & Business Certifications

SAP – PP and MM Modules | Oracle eBusiness Suite (ERP) | Business Objects Analytics

Executive Coaching | Leadership | Sales | Team Creativity | Communication | Six Sigma | Agile | Goldman Sachs 10K Small Biz

Service and Board Membership

Ascend, Executive Advisor to the Board 2016 -2018, Beacon of Light Board Member 2008 - 2011

Texas Muslim Women Foundation (TMWF): Advisory Board Member - 2000 - 2002 and 2016 - 2018

Executive Advisor to founders or president at: I4 Group | Four Pillars | Mythod (KSA) | LogistiCorp

Professional Associations and Memberships

Society of Information Technology | Goldman Sachs 10K Small Business Alumni |Minority Supplier Development Council