
Lakisha L. Simmons
Vita
Prospective Student
Ph.D. Business Administration

CONTACT INFORMATION

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EDUCATION

M.B.A., 2004 Technology Management, University of Phoenix, Nashville, TN
B.B.A., 2002 Information Systems, Tennessee State University, Nashville, TN

TECHNICAL TRAINING

2004, Siebel Essentials 7.5/7.0, Siebel University
2004, WebSphere Business Integrator (WBI) Delta 4.2, IBM
2003, Core Technology and Implementing WebSphere Business Integrator, IBM

PROJECT MANAGEMENT TRAINING

2006, Project Management Duration-Driven Planning and Control, *PMAlliance*, Inc.
2006, 6 Sigma Black Belt Training (DMAIC), Caterpillar Inc.
2006, Coaching, New Horizons
2005, Business Writing and Grammar for Busy Professionals, National Seminars
2005, How to Capture Customer Requirements & Develop Project Scope, Project Management Institute

COMPUTER SKILLS

CrossWorlds/WBI	Ms Project	TOAD	XML	SOAP
HTML	Ms Visio	Siebel	SQL	FrontPage

RESEARCH AND TRAINING

2003 - Present, Caterpillar Financial, Nashville, TN

- 2006, Currently using 6 Sigma tools to research the root cause of a discrepancy in customer buyout amounts between Cat Financial and Cat Insurance.
- 2005, In preparation for an architecture audit by IBM, I was tasked with researching and documenting Caterpillar's technical architecture supporting the integration environment. I documented all production and development interfaces, hardware and application server brand and configurations, locations of services, firewall rules, connection rates, and more. My work increased IBM productivity by 25% and reduced costs by 10%.
- 2005, Presented IT and non-IT personnel with technical overviews of CrossWorlds and WebSphere Business Integrator.

- 2004, Delivered a gap analysis to IT management and developers on the differences between the current and a proposed EAI integration environment.
- Developed and presented Baldrige Information Sessions to over 100 IT staff members (Cat Financial was a 2003 Malcolm Baldrige Award Recipient).

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

Academic Positions

2006, Adult Education Teacher, Davidson County Public Schools, Nashville, TN

- Teach math, grammar, and literacy to students preparing to take the GED.
- Administer diagnostic tests to new students.
- Evaluate student learning and recommend additional learning or test readiness.

2001, Substitute Teacher, Davidson County Public Schools, Nashville, TN

- Taught English, computers, and technical vocation courses.
- Responsible for managing the classroom, tutoring, and assisting other faculty.

2000, Teacher/Counselor, Engineering Summer Institute, Tennessee State University, Nashville, TN

- Taught computer science and African American Literature; 19 students.
- Responsible for improving reading and writing skills.
- Implemented tutorial style workbooks for the computer science course.

Industry Positions

2006 – Present, 6 Sigma Black Belt, Caterpillar Financial, Nashville, TN

- Responsible for facilitating and applying the 6 Sigma methodology to diverse improvement and implementation projects.
- Manage Sponsor relationships and communicate with all levels of management.
- Work with Financial Reps from accounting for project benefit approval.
- Train project team members into 6 Sigma Green Belts.

2004 – 2006, IT Business Analyst, Caterpillar Financial, Nashville, TN

- Responsible for gathering business requirements for IT development projects.
- Responsible for facilitating the communication between customers and IT developers.

2003 – 2004, Programmer Analyst, Caterpillar Financial, Nashville, TN

- Developed application integration interfaces using CrossWorlds.
- Created functional and technical design documents.
- Performed string, load, and component testing.
- Created service contracts, support plans, and test plans for assigned projects.

2002 – 2003, Technology Generalist, Caterpillar Financial, Nashville, TN

- Worked in various IT groups to gain an understanding of telecommunications, IT security, and project management.
- Responsible for generating system measurements such as system uptimes and help desk call resolution times.
- Assisted with updating and reformatting the IT business continuity plan.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

I am interested in the relationship between technology and people in corporate America. Many of my research interests are born from the union of business and technology. I plan to examine how information systems impact motivation, change management, and performance issues in business. One specific topic I plan to research is the affects of technological monitoring on employee productivity. Technology has enabled monitoring of employee telephone calls, Internet usage, and even how often one takes a smoke break. I would value the opportunity to study how such attitude changes affect the company's bottom line. An in-depth program in Information Systems and Organizational Behavior will allow me to explore these questions in detail. In the future, I would enjoy teaching management in information systems, systems analysis and design, and end user computing, among others.

SERVICE and ASSOCIATIONS

Honors - Cum Laude, Phi Kappa Phi, Beta Gamma Sigma
 Service - Meals on Wheels Coordinator (2005 to present)
 Girl Scout Leader Assistant (2003 to present)
 United Way (2002 to present)
 Big Sister through Buddies of Nashville (1999-2001)
 Phi Beta Lambda Business Fraternity