Mid-Atlantic CIO Forum Scholarship

Mobolaji Zondode

Details

Major:

Computer Science

Awarded During:

Academic Year 2025

Why Towson University:

I chose Towson University because of its strong academic programs, supportive learning environment, and commitment to student success. As a returning adult student with experience in analytics, I wanted a university that would help me deepen my technical skills while offering flexibility to balance my academic and professional responsibilities. Towson's computer science program aligns well with my career aspirations in data science. The university's curriculum not only strengthens my foundation in these fields but also prepares me for real-world applications through practical coursework and research opportunities. Additionally, Towson's strong connections with regional employers and its emphasis on applied learning provide excellent career development opportunities. These factors reinforce my confidence that I am in the right place to build the expertise needed for my future.

Best Moment or Greatest Achievement:

One of my greatest achievements at Towson University has been successfully balancing my academic pursuits with my professional responsibilities while making meaningful progress toward my career goals. As a returning adult student, adapting to a new academic environment while managing work and other commitments presented challenges, but I have remained committed to excelling in my studies.
A defining moment in my journey was being awarded the Greater Washington Partnership's Emerging Tech Talent Scholarship, which not only provided financial support but also reinforced my confidence in my abilities and aspirations. Additionally, my involvement in a crime rate analysis project for Baltimore and Chicago was a significant milestone. This project allowed me to apply my data analysis skills to real-world challenges, deepening my understanding of how data science can be used for public policy and law enforcement decision-making.

Extra-curricular Activities:

As a working professional, my extracurricular activities extend beyond traditional campus involvement. While I am not actively engaged in on-campus clubs due to my professional responsibilities, I remain deeply involved in academic and career-related pursuits that enhance my learning and contribute to my field of interest.

Beyond Towson University, I actively participate in online data science and analytics communities where I engage in discussions, share insights, and stay informed about emerging trends. I have completed industry-recognized training, including a Python certification, to strengthen my technical expertise. Additionally, I take part in career training programs such as Data Science for All, which provide hands-on experience in data analysis and problem-solving.

Professionally, I apply my analytical skills in real-world settings, which complements my academic studies. My work experience allows me to bridge the gap between theory and practice, and I frequently engage in independent projects to refine my skills in data science, SQL, and Python.

Though my involvement is non-traditional, these experiences have been instrumental in shaping my growth as a student and professional. They demonstrate my commitment to continuous learning, career development, and applying my education in meaningful ways.

Notable Experience:

While I have not participated in a formal internship, one of the most impactful experiences in my academic and professional journey was my involvement in a crime rate analysis project focused on Baltimore and Chicago. This project deepened my analytical skills and reinforced my passion for data-driven problem-solving, preparing me for future roles in data science and analytics.
The project involved collecting, processing, and analyzing large datasets related to crime patterns in both cities. I used statistical methods and programming tools such as Python and SQL to identify trends, correlations, and potential predictive insights. One key aspect of the project was understanding how socioeconomic factors influence crime rates and how law enforcement agencies can use data to allocate resources effectively.

This experience had a profound impact on my character and professional aspirations. It taught me the importance of data integrity, critical thinking, and objective analysis in decision-making. Additionally, working with real-world data reinforced the need for ethical considerations when handling sensitive information.

Through this project, I gained practical experience in data analytics while contributing to meaningful research that could inform policy and crime prevention strategies. It solidified my interest in using data science to address complex societal challenges and prepared me for future opportunities in this field.

Career Plans:

My career goal is to become a data scientist specializing in analytics-driven decision-making, with a focus on public policy, law enforcement, and economic forecasting. I am particularly interested in using data to drive insights that improve efficiency, allocate resources effectively, and address societal challenges. My background in analytics, combined with my studies in computer science and statistics, has shaped my passion for solving complex problems through data-driven solutions.
I chose this career path because of its interdisciplinary nature and real-world impact. My experience analyzing crime data in Baltimore and Chicago reinforced the power of data science in addressing public safety challenges. Additionally, my prior work in analytics has shown me how data can shape policy decisions and optimize operations in various industries. I find it rewarding to uncover patterns, develop predictive models, and present insights that lead to informed decision-making.

Looking ahead, I plan to continue developing my technical expertise in machine learning, statistical modeling, and data visualization. I aim to work in roles where I can apply these skills to government agencies, research institutions, or private organizations focused on social impact. Ultimately, I aspire to be in a position where I can influence policy decisions through data, bridging the gap between analytics and real-world applications.

A thank you note from your student:

I am sincerely honored to be a recipient of the Mid-Atlantic CIO Forum Scholarship. I want to express my deepest gratitude for your generosity and support, which will significantly ease my financial burden and allow me to stay focused on my academic and professional goals.

As a returning adult student balancing work and studies, receiving this scholarship means more than just financial assistance; it is a validation of my hard work and commitment to my education. I am pursuing a degree in computer science at Towson University, with aspirations to use data-driven insights to solve real-world challenges in public policy, law enforcement, or economic forecasting. This scholarship empowers me to continue my journey without financial stress, reinforcing my determination to succeed.

I am truly grateful for your investment in students like me. Your generosity not only supports my education but also inspires me to give back and help others in the future. Thank you once again for your kindness and belief in my potential.

Sincerely,
Mobolaji Zondode