

To whom it may concern,

I am writing today to recommend Matthew Matusiewicz as my business partner in the International Business Alliance Program (IBAP). My name is Usman Abubakar; I have the pleasure of working with Mr. Matthew for over a year, during that period I have observed in a number of situations and activities where his leadership skills and abilities have consistently shone through.

Mr. Matthew is an outstanding young leader who has made a great deal of difference in my life and who is committed to his team. Matthew is the IBAP Nigeria Partnership Chair of the Orange County School of the Art and as the Nigeria Partnership Chair of his IBAP team; he is very energetic and active person. In every business meeting we have had, he juggles my business challenges and keeps report of our progress on the business problems and the next business problem to work on.

At the beginning of our partnership, I was just an ordinary carpenter with the basic carpentry skills but collaborating with students like Matthew and his team, I understand that carpentry is not just a skill for survival but rather an art. From the moment I embrace this, I realize that my income has also increased and as a result I am now married and have a beautiful daughter that is going to school all because of this amazing students like Matthew.

I can now say my skill is no longer a mere skill to me, but it is also a motivation for others. Currently I have three (3) permanent employees; one of whom is a student at a polytechnic studying Mathematics and Statistics and the others are consistent in their learning of the carpentry art. More so, a big furniture company here in Bauchi state makes requests for my service. All these have become possible because of the great partnership with student like Matthew.

As the Nigerian Partnership Chair of the IBAP team of the Orange County School of the Art, Mr. Matthew is precise, goal oriented, intelligent, organize and a friendly individual. He and his team have help hugely in building my capacity by expanding my horizon to not only see carpentry as a survival skill but a talent worthy of appreciating. Though, I am collaborating with other IBAP student teams beside theirs, I can say that Matthew's team has done exceptionally the most in providing solutions to my business problems.

One of the most amazing things about Matthew and his team members is the meticulous way they go about resolving my business problems. First they started by tackling issue that has to do with the image of my business by creating a business name, slogan(motto), and business logo, then they designed a business card. They also educated me on how to manage my finances, and then made a financial calendar for me.

Alongside, they created a debt settlement form to tackle issues of clients not paying for their work as at when due (after due consultation with lawyers both in Nigeria and in the United States), they also created an invoice for me. Other solutions provided are; sketches of different types of furniture designs, overall uniform and t-shirt (also as a simple uniform for

delivery of goods after it is completed). Currently, they are working on finding ways to fix and manage mahogany floors easily.

Words cannot sufficient describe my gratitude to this young leader; Matthew and his team have worked relentlessly to change my life for the best. I am now more passionate about my work as such my income has increase, thanks to Matthew and his outstanding people like him.

Our regular meeting via skype has made me became attached to these beautiful people. I am grateful for the opportunity given to me to say something that will also affect their lives as well. I highly recommend him for the highest consideration with your institution. He is a team player, a great person and a leader.

Sincerely,

Usman Abubakar Usman
Carpentry Business partner
IBAP, Leadership Initiatives