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I am 52 years old, and my first actual job interview happened in January of this year. I opened Zoom to start the call, and on my screen, I saw a 27-year-old young man who would conduct my interview and possibly become my team lead if I were hired. My oldest daughter at that time was 26 years old. As I sat there, a mix of nerves and excitement coursing through me, I realized that my journey to this moment was anything but conventional. Yet, this unconventional path has fueled my passion for technical communication and my desire to pursue advanced studies in the field.

My academic, personal, and professional journeys have been rich in diverse experiences that have shaped my approach to communication. My undergraduate studies in chemistry and recent coursework in technical communication gave me a strong foundation in scientific and technical writing, editing, and digital communication. However, my personal and professional experiences, particularly those gained later in life, truly solidified my commitment to the field.

During my internship at Our National Conversation (ONC), I was recognized as a top 25% intern, an achievement that affirmed my dedication and skills in technical communication. This recognition led to an invitation to become the team lead for the Nonprofit Fundraising team. In this role, I honed my abilities in crafting compelling grant proposals and letters of inquiry and developed leadership skills that will serve me well in future professional endeavors. These experiences, including learning about drafting and submitting grant proposals on behalf of an organization, demonstrated the critical role that effective communication plays in advancing organizational goals and further ignited my passion for the field.

My decision to apply for the UNT graduate program in technical communication attests to my commitment to lifelong learning. Despite the unique challenges of entering the workforce later in life, I have embraced every opportunity to learn and grow, and this program is the next step in my journey.

The interview in January, where I found myself speaking with someone nearly half my age, was a turning point. It underscored the importance of staying adaptable and continuing to learn, regardless of where you are in life. This adaptability is one of the reasons I am drawn to the UNT Technical Communication Master's program. The program's emphasis on research and practical application aligns perfectly with my career aspirations. I am particularly impressed by UNT's commitment to fostering a collaborative learning environment where students can engage with theoretical and practical technical communication aspects. The opportunity to learn from distinguished faculty members and access cutting-edge resources will undoubtedly provide me with the tools I need to excel in my career.

I am not just eager but deeply committed to deepening my understanding of the field of technical communication. I am particularly interested in proposal writing, digital communication, and the intersection of technical communication with user experience.

Looking to the future, my goal is to advance to a senior technical writer position specializing in proposal writing and digital communication. I also aspire to contribute to the academic field of technical communication by mentoring others who, like me, are navigating unconventional career paths. The UNT Master's program offers the ideal environment for me to achieve these goals, with its comprehensive curriculum and focus on theory and practice.

In conclusion, I bring to the University of North Texas a wealth of life experiences, a deep passion for technical communication, and a commitment to lifelong learning. The knowledge and skills I will gain through this program will empower me to make significant contributions to the field and achieve my professional goals. I am grateful for your consideration of my application. Thank you.

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