

CLASS OF 2023
Outstanding Graduate



“As a first-generation student with unique experiences in engineering and management, I want to contribute to teaching and research in these areas and also mentor students with humble beginnings.”

—Jimoh Gbenga Fatoki

JIMOH GBENGA FATOKI
College of Business, Ph.D.

When first-generation student Jimoh “Jim” Fatoki came to NMSU to pursue his doctorate in business administration and management, he already had plenty of academic experience. A native of Nigeria, he had graduated in the top 1 percent of his class at the University of Ibadan for his master’s in agricultural and environmental engineering and received First Class Honors for his bachelor’s in wood products engineering. His focus was on waste management and sustainability, and he had taken part in many publications and presentations.

Research motivates Jimoh—he wakes up every day wanting to learn something. His research assistantship at Lagos Business School convinced him that business planning would be the best way to use his engineering knowledge. He focuses now on the five Rs of a circular economy: reuse, repair, refurbish, remanufacture and recycle.

His awards at NMSU include the Outstanding Graduate Assistant Award and being named an Association for Supply Chain Management scholar. He participated in the Daniels Fund Ethics Case Competition and student government. Jimoh was a reviewer for the Global Interdisciplinary Green Cities Conference, the *Journal of Organizational Effectiveness* and the Annual Meeting of the Academy of Management.

Despite his academic success, Jimoh says his best experiences have been connecting with other international students who are also far from home. He says his fellow students have been his “big family,” and noted how they motivated and pushed one another to succeed.

Upon graduation, Jimoh will start as an assistant professor at Roger Williams University teaching operations management, supply chain management and data analytics. ▲