

**Preferred name:** Dr. Ifeanyi Okpala

**Phonetic pronunciation of name:** if-ee-AH-nee, o-pa-la

**Current work city and state of residence:** Beaumont, Texas, USA

**Current employer:** ExxonMobil

**Current position:** Project Engineer, and Project Manager of Execution

**Biography:** Dr. Ifeanyi Okpala, PMP is an ExxonMobil project engineer managing the execution of global capital projects to support the continuous development of low-carbon and product solutions serving world markets. These projects are part of ExxonMobil's "Growing the Gulf" \$20 billion investment (over 10 years) to build and expand 11 manufacturing facilities and create tens of thousands of jobs and billions of dollars of economic activity. The world depends on the manufacturing and industrial sectors to get the energy transition right; hence, his work is mission-critical to the future of energy supply and demand. In addition, he currently leads the game-changing implementation of a visual Artificial Intelligence (AI) application on a 150-million capital project to track safety field performance and enable real-time detection of areas of SSHE Improvement. He obtained his master's and doctorate degrees in civil engineering from The University of Alabama (UA) in the Fall 2019 and Spring 2022 semesters respectively. He is a LEED Green Associate, and Engineering-In-Training (EIT) in the state of Texas. In academia at The University of Alabama (2018 and 2022), he was a graduate council fellow, research assistant, teaching assistant, and instructor of record for the construction engineering and safety engineering classes. His research develops foundational insights supporting the use of robotics and automation to improve construction workers' safety, health, and productivity. In disseminating high-impact research, he has published 9 peer-reviewed journal articles, a book chapter, 9 peer-reviewed conference publications, and 2 posters. He continues to build on over seven years of research and industry experience managing projects and programs in the consulting, research, construction, petroleum, and gas industries. He is the professional development co-chair of the ExxonMobil Black Employee Success Team (BEST) at Beaumont, TX. BEST is the umbrella body for black employees within the corporation. In his career, he has served the community as a graduate school ambassador, graduate teaching fellow, career center advisory board member, and president of the African Students Association. He is a member of the NSBE, Project Management Institute, American Society of Safety Professionals, and American Society of Civil Engineers.