Karin Eichelman

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Dear Hiring Committee,

I’m excited to apply for the Information Systems Engineer position. Having fallen in love with both the Amherst area and web development as a career, I’ve been in search of an opportunity like this, and I know I’d be a perfect fit because the requirements are aligned with what I’ve been doing for the past two years in the UMass Transit IT department, both independently and with a great team.

Transit IT is a unique place to work because our customers include our own team as well as other UMass Transit employees. Therefore we are closely involved with the user experience, and because of this I have an intimate understanding of how Agile development should work. Our main application, umasstransit.org, is used daily by any number of 200+ fellow employees and is crucial to the operation of UMass Transit, as a result I have experience fixing bugs swiftly under stressful conditions where system availability is critical for those people relying on it to do their jobs. I have direct experience ensuring that users are minimally impacted by data migrations and updates.

Though it may appear odd that I would go from completing a degree in Linguistics to a career in Computer Science, it was the relationship between the two fields—dealing with the generation and comprehension of language using logical algorithms—that sparked an interest in the latter. It was through using Python to work with regular expressions during my senior year that I realized I enjoyed writing code more than the other assignments. Thus, I decided to teach myself how to program when school ended. After graduating, I taught myself enough JavaScript to show I possessed the required skills to join the IT team at the workplace I’d grown to consider my second home.

It would fulfill me greatly to continue to use my skills, passion, and the ever-evolving technology at my fingertips to improve people’s lives both at Transit Services and the campus at large. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Karin Eichelman