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Why I'm Interested in The 19th News 2025 Product Fellowship

Growing up in rural Nepal, I saw bright young minds stifled by a lack of hands-on learning. As a STEAM instructor and Content Designer at Karkhana, I created the “Pahadi Gadi” challenge, tasking students to build toy cars for rugged mountain roads using recycled materials. When one student prototypes a traction-heavy vehicle with animal stalls, I realized education’s power to spark creativity and equity. Having empowered over 500 learners through project-based classes, I’m eager to bring that same spirit of curiosity and inclusion to The 19th’s Product Fellowship.

How My Background Aligns with The 19th’s Product Track

- Design Thinking & Feature Definition

At Vanderbilt IT, I translated user interviews into wireframes and React prototypes for a campus-wide dashboard. I led A/B tests, tracked Google Analytics metrics, and iterated until conversion improved by 20%. I look forward to applying that ideation–prototyping–testing cycle to features on The 19th’s website, newsletters, and aggregation apps.

- Writing Requirements & Shipping Products

During my Apple internship, I dove into proprietary Bluetooth modules, distilled specs into clear implementation plans, and collaborated across firmware, hardware, and iOS teams. This opportunity taught me to write precise user stories and acceptance criteria—skills I’ll use to partner with The 19th’s engineers to ship accessible, high-performance newsroom tools.

- Measuring Impact & Experimentation

At Vanderbilt, I built SQL-backed analytics pipelines powering real-time incident visualizations. Defining key metrics and automating reports saved 30 % of manual effort. I’m excited to bring that rigor to The 19th: designing experiments, monitoring click-throughs and subscriptions, and iterating based on concrete audience feedback.

- User Research & Synthesizing Learnings

My research on sustainable makerspaces for gifted students sharpened my ability to conduct interviews, synthesize diverse perspectives, and translate insights into scalable solutions. I can’t wait to interview The 19th’s readers, uncover pain points, and convert learnings into roadmap priorities.

- Roadmapping & Stakeholder Communication

Leading cross-functional teams taught me to balance editorial deadlines, design constraints, and technical debt. I’ve presented quarterly roadmaps to diverse audiences for alignment and

buy-in. At the 19th, I'll collaborate with product, editorial, and marketing to co-own strategic planning and triage feedback.

- Inspired by Past Fellows

I've been inspired by 2023 Product Fellow Racquel Bethea, whose interactive reading guides boosted newsletter engagement by 15%, and by Jamila Wood's personalized article recommendation prototype that deepened reader connection. Their work shows how thoughtful product design can transform journalism—and motivates me to bring my STEAM-driven, data-grounded approach to The 19th.

The 19th's commitment to equity, transparency, and inclusive storytelling resonates deeply with my values as an HBCU graduate and global citizen. Through this fellowship, I hope to merge my CS expertise, educational advocacy, and passion for social impact to build newsroom tools that empower every reader and forge relationships beyond friendships to create a global community united in tackling local and worldwide challenges.

Thank you for your consideration. I'm excited by the possibility of helping The 19th continue to innovate equitable journalism through audience-centered product design.