**Wharton Research Data Services**

The Wharton School

University of Pennsylvania

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**Timothy Allen**

IT Technical Director

August 2nd, 2022

Robert Zarazowski

Wharton Research Data Services  
  
The Wharton School  
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Suite 100 – St. Leonard’s Court

3819 Chestnut St.

Philadelphia, PA 19104

Dear Bob:

Thank you for reviewing my application for WRDS Principal Engineer. The position feels like it would be a perfect fit for my skillset in the next stage of my career.

In my thirteen years at WRDS, I have led many efforts to introduce new technologies that have enhanced the WRDS platform. I have taken these efforts very seriously, as I know they impact not just our staff, but hundreds of thousands of users across the world. Over the past decade, I evangelized the four major technologies that now make the core of the WRDS platform: Python, Django, Wagtail, and PostgreSQL. Moving our platforms to these technologies has allowed WRDS to be ahead of the curve for modern research. Python is currently the top language in the world, particularly in the research and analytics space. PostgreSQL is quickly becoming the database of choice for many researchers, and Django and Wagtail have given us the ability to develop features on par with the biggest tech companies in the world.

Many of our current features would not be possible if we had not chosen the Python ecosystem, which is the engine of analytics, text analysis, natural language processing, machine learning, and artificial intelligence. I was a champion for Python as part of Wharton’s DevTAP process in 2013 – 2014 and taking this new role would allow me to continue to bring exciting new technologies to WRDS and Wharton, while still mentoring junior engineers, a role I have always enjoyed.

In addition, I maintain relationships with the communities of the technologies we use. I’m a member of both the Python Software Foundation and the Django Software Foundation. I brought DjangoCon US to Philadelphia and Wharton in 2016. I am an organizer of the Philly Python Users Group and the Philly PostgreSQL Users Group and have spoken at conferences across the world on a variety of topics, related to the innovative work we get to do at WRDS. These relationships and my public profile have allowed me to recruit some of our most effective staff, including Muk Rao, Ryan Sullivan, and Noel Victor at WRDS, and many more at Wharton Computing. I have developed friendships with the leading open-source developers of all four of our core products, allowing us to have the inside track on new features, and a voice in the room when product roadmaps are being discussed.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my thirteen years at Penn, Wharton, and WRDS, and this position will allow me to take the next logical step in my career, while remaining in the division where I have always been extremely happy. I look forward to discussing the position with you.

Thank You.

Timothy Allen

IT Technical Director

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