

May 20, 2012

Dear Professor Schep:

This letter is in regards to the formal submission of my application for the instructor position that opens in July 1, 2012.

I completed a doctorate in Mathematics at Purdue University in August 2007, and I have worked for the department of Mathematics of the University of South Carolina since my graduation: first as a research assistant professor and later as a part-time instructor.

In those five years I have committed to excellence in teaching and service to the department, with an emphasis on all aspects that help guarantee quality in the classroom: from helping inexperienced faculty better understand course management in our department, to facilitate students with a class environment that stresses teaching the individual, rather than teaching the material. Proof of this excellence can be obtained by examination of my “class climate surveys.” You will observe, not only that students have a high opinion of my overall performance, but also that the evaluations keep improving by semester (reaching a 4.7/5 in my last Calculus II course).

Prior to my stay at USC, I had about 15 more years of teaching experience, mostly at the University level. I have also had the pleasure to instruct and manage students of all ages in many different disciplines—not only Mathematics. As an educator, I am deeply committed to the effective use of technology in the classroom, and as proof I would like to point you to my professional blog ([blancosilva.wordpress.com](http://blancosilva.wordpress.com)) where I keep examples on my teaching and research projects of students under my guidance.

I strongly believe that both students and their instructors perform better in environments where the current skills of the pupils are sufficient to accomplish the goals at hand. For this reason, I am a firm advocate of rigorous placement procedures. I will commit to facilitate a system for placement that guarantees this objective.

I also have strong coordination skills. I started my career in education precisely dealing with high and middle school instruction of chess and organization of competitions at state level. I have never stopped using these abilities, and currently I use my expertise in this sense to manage groups of Hispanic young and young-adults for the Diocese of Charleston. Some of my usual tasks in this position involve organization of weekend-long retreats or day-long conferences; search for funding to back financially the different activities and material; reach out to leaders in the community for support, etc. These skills are an asset for the role of a successful organizer of the High School Math Contest. If required, I will be happy to provide references that address these abilities from my supervisors at the Diocese of Charleston, and the Catholic Church of Saint Peter in Columbia.

I will request my letters of recommendation to be sent by their authors. Attached are my curriculum vitae, a statement of teaching interest, and transcripts from both Purdue University and the Universidad Complutense de Madrid.

I look forward to discussing the qualifications for the position further. I can be contacted at the address listed below, by e-mail at [blanco@math.sc.edu](mailto:blanco@math.sc.edu), or by phone at (803) 386-1822. Thank you for your consideration.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Francisco Javier Blanco-Silva". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Francisco" being the most prominent.

Francisco Javier Blanco-Silva  
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