

13 November, 2024

Dear members of the search committee:

I am writing to submit my application for the open position Lecturer in Ecological and Evolutionary Biology XXX. Currently, I am a faculty-fellow in EEB in the Department of BioSciences at XXX. Previously, I received my PhD from XXX in May of 2021, and I was a full-time teaching associate for introductory biology at XXX from August of 2021 to June of 2022.

As a teacher, my central goal is to contribute to raising levels of scientific literacy, while instilling a sense of wonder for the natural world. My teaching practices are aware of the socio-economic disparities among college students. I build my syllabus and policies specifically to lower the barriers that members of underprivileged populations face as college students. I am also a proponent of **self-regulated learning**, a practice proven to improve student learning and retention. I have almost 10 semesters of experience teaching freshman biology labs at XXX, for which I have been awarded the William H. Gates Award for excellence in freshman instruction from the XXX Department of Biological Sciences. I also have strong interest and experience teaching field-based classes, having taught ornithology and entomology at Rice. **Field classes are a proven way of enhancing minoritized students' sense of belonging and retention in STEM fields.** My experience teaching field-based courses has allowed me to engage students directly with the subject matter through hands-on exploration, which cultivates both their practical skills and their enthusiasm for ecological studies.

At XXX, I would be excited to teach, among other courses: Introduction Lab to Organismal and Evolutionary Biology; Genomics and computational biology; Diversity of Life; Evolutionary Biology; Entomology; and Ornithology.

I am inspired by XXX commitment to inclusive and transformative education, and I am excited by the prospect of contributing to its vibrant academic community

Thank you for considering my application,