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Hiring Committee
Data-Driven Social Science Initiative
Princeton University
Princeton, NJ

Dear Hiring Committee,

I am excited to apply for the Associate Research Software Engineer position with Princeton University's Data-Driven Social Science (DDSS) initiative. With a Bachelor of Science in Computer Science and Applied Mathematics from Saint Cloud State University (expected May 2025) and practical experience developing scalable, research-oriented software solutions, I am eager to contribute to the innovative computational social science projects at Princeton.

Throughout my academic and professional journey, I have cultivated strong technical skills in Python, R, SQL, Java, and C++, alongside hands-on experience with cloud technologies such as AWS, Docker, and Kubernetes. As a Traffic Data Analyst Intern at Hennepin County, I analyzed large datasets using Python, R, SQL, ArcGIS, and Synchro, developing scripts that streamlined data processing and visualization workflows. This role sharpened my ability to collaborate with diverse teams, translate research needs into technical solutions, and uphold best practices in data-driven analysis—skills directly aligned with DDSS's mission.

My passion for computational research is further reflected in my recent work fine-tuning large language models through MIT Deep Learning Labs. This experience enhanced my skills in optimizing model performance, designing evaluation pipelines, and collaborating across interdisciplinary teams—preparing me to tackle the challenges of improving research software performance and sustainability.

Additionally, my work building full-stack applications, including a social media app and a panoramic POI system, demonstrates my commitment to writing maintainable, efficient, and user-centric code. These projects strengthened my fluency with version control, CI/CD pipelines, and system architecture—essential competencies for developing flexible, scalable research tools at DDSS.

I am drawn to this role not only for the opportunity to apply and grow my technical expertise but also because of the collaborative and intellectually vibrant environment at Princeton. I am excited to engage deeply with researchers, learn from world-class experts, and contribute to pioneering social science discoveries through robust software engineering.

Thank you for considering my application. I look forward to the possibility of discussing how my background, skills, and enthusiasm align with the goals of the Data-Driven Social Science initiative.

Sincerely,

Sauharda Meher Shrestha