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In 2014, as a senior in high school, I read about the introduction of *Ethereum*. The thing that stood out most to me was their focus on the concept of governance, only later would I realize the true significance of the invention of distributed ledger systems, with the capability of enacting smart contracts.

In the last few years, I've committed a significant amount of time in learning about blockchain technology and cryptocurrencies. Your firm stood out to me in the niche it's filled within the industry. Right now the technology is still in a developmental phase, evident by an oversaturated business environment with thousands of coins and tokens respectively. It is reminiscent of certain qualities that the dot-com boom in the '90s espoused. There is still a lag in market adoption as an investment vehicle and market implementation within business operating processes. While this is a nuanced distinction as the fundamental services and technical features a specific coin and token may possess will dictate their ability to scale into capturing market share. *Dogecoin* is a very public example of the power of speculative investment while being backed by what can now be considered legacy technology. Technological innovation within the sector will slow, especially within layer-1 and layer-2 development. There shouldn't be any surprise that the market stabilizes into a steady and reasonable growth rate, particularly with better-tested use cases.

*Chainlink* is a household name for those within the blockchain space, and for good reason. *Chainlink's* role as a crucial contributor to the data infrastructure is essential. Although there are competitor oracles, *Chainlink* as a firm has not only an advantage from adoption and brand recognition but as an organization itself. The aspects which stood out most have been the organizational structure, such as keeping its team fully remote and focus on collaboration with other firms. Furthermore, the organization's attention to technical pain points within the emerging blockchain space is exciting and consequential.

I have an unquenchable thirst for this industry. There has never been a singular topic that I self-motivated sought out as many learning opportunities on as DLT Technology. The field has core attributes that are all tethered closely to my intellectual passions. Economics, Political Science, Technology, Behavioral Science, and Systems Engineering. I've spent the last couple of years teaching myself as much about blockchain as I could fit into my free time. Even now, I watch videos, read white papers, listen to interviews, and continue to upskill in order to work in development. This is in addition to the experiences I listed on the bottom section of my resume. Eventually, when resources allow it, I would like to pursue a Master's in Distributed Ledger and Blockchain Technology. I mention these in order to highlight that I am literate in the technical features of blockchain technology. Also to further demonstrate that this isn't just an interest that was generated by the hype of the investment cycle but rather a deep-seated curiosity to learn more and become an expert on this subject.

*Charles Hoskinson* said in one of his comments: “Our industry, is ultimately an industry about systems, that’s our business and that’s what we deal in” It was hearing this that I realized that this industry was what I wanted to dedicate my career to. I’ve always been very skilled at thinking strategically. If I had to describe two skill sets that are my greatest strengths, it is systematic thinking in order to solve a problem and learning very quickly. Both of these fulfilled my attraction to DLT as an emerging field with many unexplored uses and challenges.

I’ve encountered many experiences throughout my life which have had drastic effects on my learning. There are unique aspects of my own experiences, both within a professional setting and outside it which would be valuable to your organization. The most resounding being is my experience and an appreciation for navigating complex socioeconomic settings, and the ability to communicate with a very wide variety of people. As a son of a teacher at private school, I was exposed to students and faculty from all across the world. Many were of high socioeconomic status. This is contrasted with my experience at *Berea College*, a small but prestigious historically black college in Berea, Kentucky, where students came from nearly just as diverse backgrounds, from the opposite side of the economic spectrum; all stemming from impoverished backgrounds. My friends and acquaintances I’ve kept throughout this time have reflected the values and experience of this diversity. I studied business, and management where management theories and applications were well balanced, learning a relevant skillset in business administration, bottom-up. I have a particular skill for intermediating between an industry with a high degree of technically specific vocabulary and traditional business.

Furthermore, at Berea, I became fascinated by behavioral economics and spent time working for a non-profit SBA lender *MACED* (Mountain Association for Community Economic Development). I learned about the intricacies of loan and consulting enterprises. I’ve helped develop community projects, manage public works projects such as the establishment of Berea’s first Urban Agriculture District, an area designed to help address food scarcity.

Two examples to give an insight into how I go about solving a problem where my time as a community and campus outreach representative for *Generation Action*, and my time spent as an elected member of *Berea Colleges Committee for Sustainable Investment*. The first was taking a sensitive topic such as sexual education and sexual assault, and how to improve metrics for these across campus. Eventually concluding that a statistical-based approach was most effective, with a heavy emphasis on early-stage intervention catered towards underclassmen.

The second more puzzling, was trying to convince the board of directors of *Berea College* and its higher leadership, that taking an active initiative in investing Berea’s \$1.2 Billion endowments, into sustainable outlets, was not only a moral social necessity but was a more effective long term strategy for the fund’s progress and long term returns. The most difficult hurdle was that while the college itself was reflective of a much more progressive stance towards climate change, the board members were uninterested and unexposed to the statistics

behind the topic. As the youngest member, I raised concerns about the long-term impacts for the demographics the college was ultimately trying to serve. I also presented information that highlighted negative impacts of climate change such as the *IPCC's 4th Climate Assessment*, and documents detailing the higher market performances for proactive adopters of ESG guided stocks. Collaboratively as a team, we were able to negotiate a compromise on an adjustment to some of the core guiding language embedded into the guidelines for the portfolio's management.

I want to thank you for your time in reviewing my resume and cover letter, if, given the opportunity for an interview, I look forward to having a more rich conversation about *Chainlink*, the challenges of the position, and the direction of the field as a whole, while hearing your perspectives on the subject.