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Dear Director of Hiring/Human Resources,

I would like to express my strong interest in the opportunity be an intern at the Cape Canaveral or McGregor facilities. I am a senior at the University of Wisconsin – Platteville pursuing a Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering, with a minor in Mathematics. I first heard of SpaceX when I saw a YouTube video of the Grasshopper development vehicles, and have been following the excitement ever since. Additionally, it has become my single goal to be selected to participate in an internship at SpaceX, and as you will see from my Cover Letter, Resume, and Engineering Design Portfolio, I have been working extremely hard to achieve it.

Everything that I have learned about the type of person that is recruited by SpaceX makes me think that I would be an excellent addition to the SpaceX team. SpaceX values extremely hard working, motivated, and talented individuals, because among other reasons, SpaceX is working on some of the most challenging and important tasks that the human species has ever taken on. I have consistently demonstrated these values though the various internships, design projects (scholastic and personal), extracurricular activities, and college courses that I have taken part in.

As a demonstration of my strong work ethic, one must look no farther than my involvement in all aspects of college. Throughout my college career, not only have I excelled in my challenging college courses, but I have done so while being heavily involved in time-intensive activities such as Track & Field, Aero SAE, independent research in Microsystems & Nanotechnology, and helping students as a Peer-Assisted Leader. I elect to participate in so many additional activities for several reasons, the first being that I tend to excel when my time is stretched very thin and I am under high pressure. I have a habit of becoming ultra-focused on that tasks that I need to complete and strive to work as efficiently as possible in such situations. The second reason for my heavily involvement is, bluntly, I take every opportunity that I come across that will make myself more marketable to SpaceX, as I know they are very keen on hands on engineering experience.

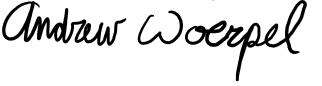
My motivation comes largely from a desire for others to view me as a dependable, hardworking, competent, and bright person. An example of my motivation has to do with Plexus Corporation giving me the great opportunity to be a Software Engineering Intern, despite my lack of experience with software. While I had taken a course on C++, I quickly learned that I was lacking knowledge of some important concepts of the language that would be necessary to contribute to a software project of such scope. I immediately began reading and practicing the skills in my free time

After reviewing the qualifications needed for internship positions at the Cape Canaveral and McGregor facilities, I believe that I am a strong candidate. Through the course work that I have completed or will complete prior to an internship in the summer of 2016, I will have had experience with analog and digital circuit design, control systems, and computer programming. Along with doing well in the book work portions of these courses, I have had the opportunity to polish my practical technical skills by creating, testing, troubleshooting, and writing technical reports on real circuits through challenging design projects and laboratories. Additionally, my participation in Aero SAE and research in Microsystems and Nanotechnology have tested my ability to teach myself and implement new technical skills in a way that cannot be realized with school work alone.

I have also been working to hone my skillset in additional areas that are desirable to SpaceX but not necessarily taught in great detail in Electrical Engineering curriculum. One example of this is the work that I have been doing in teaching myself computer programming. I chose to learn programming using Python because of the excellent reputation it has as a beginner language, and its use by employees at SpaceX. I think that it is extremely important to learn interdisciplinary skills such as this to truly be an effective and valuable engineer.

I consider some of my best non-technical qualities to be my self-motivation, strong work ethic, leadership skills, love of learning, and ability to communicate ideas to others clearly. My professors often thank me for my positive contributions to the class room and I even accepted a position as a Peer Assisted Leader for my professor’s Signals and Systems course. In this position, I will assist the professor during laboratory times and hold office hours where I will offer additional assistance to students. I have also acquired a substantial amount of leadership experience from my time as Senior Patrol Leader in my local Boy Scout troop, where I led troop activities for approximately two years. Examples like the ones listed above have helped me to develop the skills that are necessary to be an effective member of an engineering team.

I would like to thank you for considering me for an internship position at SpaceX. I look forward to hearing from you about this opportunity.

Thank you,

Andrew Woerpel