

06 April 2018

To Whom It May Concern:

I appreciate receiving contact from CaptionCall® and Sorenson Communications®. It was also a pleasure to talk with the people from the CaptionCall® team at the LDS Job Fair in Sandy, UT.

The position that interests me the most is the **Speech Recognition and Machine Learning Intern** (Speech Recognition and Machine-EG0119) for CaptionCall®. I will introduce my career goals and my plans to reach them below.

I plan to begin work on an M.S. Computer Science at BYU in the fall of this year. I have already been in contact with a research advisor, and I have even done some research work with him. The research focus of my degree will be Machine Learning – specifically Computer Vision. My ultimate goal is research in machine learning, work that will help others and make the world a better place.

I would love having work before and during these studies that would have some relation to machine learning. I contacted CaptionCall® at the LDS Job Fair, because my friend, Michael Sorokine, let me know that the company gave just such an opportunity. Because of my discussion at the job fair, I'm considering working as a captioning agent, though I would like to do that after the internship in question.

I will now discuss two of the qualifications I possess which will allow me to be an immediate asset in the position.

1. I worked as a Data Curator and Analyst during a year-long contract job with FamilySearch. Details of this work can be found on my résumé. The Advanced Research Team I supported works on the handwriting recognition problem using Kaldi as a framework. Because of this experience, I am familiar with concepts of machine learning and deep neural networks. More importantly for this internship, I am familiar with *machine learning concepts that have specific application in speech recognition*.
2. I have at least ten months of experience being in *close contact with the hearing-impaired community*. During my two-year volunteer experience as an LDS missionary, I taught myself French Sign Language so as to better help with the community-outreach program for the hearing-impaired. I participated there for three months. I continued on to take a Conversational ASL course during my undergraduate studies, and I also used my knowledge to befriend a group of hearing-impaired people at a previous job and improve communication between them and the management.

Michael Sorokine has been kind enough to offer his help in delivering this cover letter and my updated résumé personally. I look forward to hearing back from you about the possibility to meet and discuss the possibility of working with CaptionCall® and using machine-learning techniques to help the hearing-impaired community that I love.

Sincerely
David Black