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Dr. Shernita Lee  
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Dear Dr. Lee,

As I indicated through our previous email, I would like to apply for the Data Science for the Public Good Program research. With the data and computer programming classes I have taken at Virginia Tech, I believe I could be a valuable contribution to this Data Science research program. I am currently a sophomore at Virginia Tech and I will finish my B.S. in Business Information Technology in May 2019. For my major, I have taken courses that have taught me statistics, linear model programming, data analytics, and the programming language Java. These classes have given me experience in being able to make connections in data and analyzing it; the specific classes are shown on my resume.

My experience also includes going to a service, study abroad trip to Belize and teaching the Belizean teachers how to gather and analyze data about their students' grades. In Belize, my study abroad group held workshops for teachers to help them create personalized gradebooks in Excel. We taught them how to input data and create tables that will help them sort the data. The sorting allows the teachers to rank their students, which is something their schools requires them to do. We showed them how to use a range of formulas from the AVERAGE to IF to VLOOKUP formulas. In addition, we taught them how to use conditional formatting so they can visualize data that stands out. This way, they can easily recognize which students need help versus which students are doing well. Last but not least, we taught them how to create PivotGraphs so they can analyze the trends of the quizzes, tests and projects students were given. With knowledge in these tools, I believe it will be easy for me to catch up on advance skills and also help others with such skills in the DSPG program.

I would love the opportunity to experience and put my knowledge into practice as part of this research program, as well as learn new skills. I will be in Blacksburg until May 10<sup>th</sup> and then I will be in Northern Virginia this summer. I will contact you in the next two weeks to see if you need other information and answer any questions you may have. Thank you for your consideration and I look forward for your reply. You can reach me at [harsim4@vt.edu](mailto:harsim4@vt.edu) if you have any immediate questions.

Sincerely,  
Harsimrat Pandher