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January 31, 2017
SDAL DSPG Program
Virginia Bioinformatics Institute
900 N. Glebe Road
Arlington, VA 22203

Dear DSPG Admissions Panel,

I am writing to express my strong desire to be a part of the DSPG Program for this upcoming summer. I applied in 2015 with a limited experience, but I am here today with stronger credentials that can complement your work in bettering communities through policy responses.

Last semester, 15 other facilitators and I led multiple conversations to the 4800 first-year students over 10 weeks about diversity, in which the students shared personal stories regarding social identities such as race, gender, and religion. As the facilitator, I posed questions to challenge them to consider how these narratives connect to social issues in the US and Clemson. These difficult conversations improved understanding, appreciation, and communication among students, which are essential for innovation in education and industry. I am now conducting focus groups for qualitative data and analyzing it to determine if those discussions changed perspectives. These results will be given to the Clemson Administration to aid in the university's diversity initiatives.

Furthermore, I am working on an independent project in which I am evaluating the brand of a living-learning community, which houses 750 first-year science and engineering students. Students in this community have expressed apathy for community events (low attendance), and I want to know why, especially when resources are allocated such events. Through surveying and statistical analysis, I am identifying brand weaknesses and communicating them to the community director, who will consider them for future marketing strategies.

A more formal project I am involved in is learning how to conduct research in the realm of consumer behavior with a focus on self-regulation. I am reviewing various papers on stress, childhood socioeconomic status, biological reactivity, and how they all relate consumer saving and spending. My technical background strengthens my critical thinking in understanding these systems, and my curiosity drives me to connect them to modern behavior.

As a first-generation minority student, I have the curiosity to understand social structures with the motivation to improve them for future generations, which are both exemplified in my community engagement and research. I believe I am a qualified candidate for your program who has made himself to be more than just an engineer since 2015. I am confident my current credentials will contribute to the success of your work, and I hope you feel the same way. If you have any questions about my experiences, please feel free to reach out.

Sincerely,



Denny Huynh

Enclosure

<i>Education</i>	Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering <i>Clemson University - Clemson, SC</i>	May 2017 GPA: 3.78/4.00
<i>Relevant Experiences</i>	RiSE Brand Analyst <i>Clemson University Residents in Science & Engineering (RiSE)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Generate surveys to assess brand perception and value of 754 first-year students ▪ Utilize market research techniques with Excel to examine survey responses ▪ Determine areas for brand development with director of RiSE Diversity and Inclusion Student Researcher <i>Harvey and Lucinda Gantt Multicultural Center</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Evaluate first-year students on their sentiment on the value of diversity on campus ▪ Conduct focus groups discussing diversity for data to use for text analytics ▪ Propose changes to the first-year diversity curriculum based on results Advanced Manufacturing Engineer Co-Op <i>General Electric (GE) Healthcare</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Created a new refurbishment process for an out-of-house MRI magnet ▪ Developed process floor plan for a new MRI prototype ▪ Designed engineering tools to aid in manual building 	Jan 2016 – Present Aug 2016 – Present May 2014 – Apr 2015
<i>Other Experience</i>	Undergraduate Teaching Assistant <i>Clemson General Engineering Department</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Assist professors in two class sections of 40-50 freshman engineering students ▪ Provide opportunities for students to seek help through evening sessions ▪ Build professional relationships with students for in-class success International Resident Assistant <i>Clemson University Home</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Managed a community conducive to academic and personal success ▪ Direct 24 exchange students to appropriate university resources ▪ Advise the students on how to adapt to American culture Marketing Psychology Creative Inquiry Student <i>Clemson University College of Business</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Research emotion and expressions and their relation to consumer behavior ▪ Collaborate with student team of 7 for research proposals and projects ▪ Explore best research methodologies and current literature 	Aug 2013 – Present Aug 2015 – Present Jan 2016 – Present
<i>Recognitions</i>	1 st Place Deloitte Case Competition TEDxClemsonUniversity Speaker SAS Global Forum Conference Scholar SAS Analytics Clemson Student Scholar	2016 2016 2016 2015
<i>International Studies</i>	European Integration – Clemson University, Belgium Sustainable Technology – Reykjavik University, Iceland Renewable Energy – University of New South Wales, Australia	Summer 2016 Spring 2014 Summer 2013

<i>Relevant Skills</i>	Word Tableau	Excel MATLAB	PowerPoint Qualtrics
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