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Biocomplexity Institute

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to apply for the Data Science for the Public Good Summer Internship position. I am a second year undergraduate student at the University of Virginia pursuing a degree in statistics with a concentration in biostatistics. My involvement with the Diet and Nutrition research lab at UVA and statistical background has sparked my interest in pursuing a health-related research career. I believe in the vision of Biocomplexity Institute to address complex problems proposed by local, state, and federal agencies and to determine how information can be leveraged to improve quality of life and inform public policy. I would be beyond excited to represent your organization as an intern.

My research experience in the Diet and Nutrition Lab at UVA has led my interest to further health-related studies. Nutrition has always been a passion of mine. People struggle to find healthy, whole, real food at affordable prices. There is also massive confusion with the ever changing guidelines as to what is deemed “healthy diet” by legislation. There is simply not enough up-to-date, unbiased, relevant research studies being done to properly advise citizens on many aspects of the food system. Food policy impacts all of America, from the farmer to the consumer, the environment, the economic market and more. These policies and research studies are out-dated. More research needs to be done to find new and improved methods. Specifically, I am working in the DAN Lab on a study that focuses on how diet and nutrition affect the health and learning outcomes of preschoolers. I understand the challenges and procedures needed to carry out successful studies and because of my background in statistics I am able to convey the results in a concise and effective manner. I hope to explore more in this field and create strong, long standing relationships within the industry. Through my biostatistics knowledge and research experience, I believe I can take advantage of this enriching opportunity which would help me to better understand how I might impact and participate in new, relevant, and meaningful research to create a better future for everyone.

I am confident that my experience, knowledge, and passion for the goals of the Biocomplexity Institute have prepared me to be a strong intern for your summer program. I look forward to discussing my qualifications further with you. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Jillian Eberhart