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June 9, 2018

I am writing about the opportunity to work as a Research Analyst at the Center for Lifelong STEM Learning at Oregon State University. I have five years of experience engaged in research and instruction at Oregon State University that would be directly applicable to my ability to succeed in this role. Besides my experience I am incredibly interested in increasing opportunities for people to learn and engage in the STEM Field. It is one of my personal goals to help remove barriers that keeps people from feeling they would be able to explore these concepts and succeed, whether that be in an academic or personal setting.

I will briefly highlight a few key elements of my background I feel are relevant to this position. I gained my master's degree in the Department of Nuclear Science and Engineering at Oregon State University. I was engaged in research funded by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission researching and developing digital radiation detection software for distance learners. I also co-wrote and received an additional grant related to distance education. After this I gained my MBA and then worked as a Research Assistant in the College of Business engaging in literature reviews, data collection and analysis and research paper writing. Something else that I think would really allow me to excel in this role is my love of teaching. I have worked as a Teaching Assistant and Instructor at both Oregon State University and Linn Benton Community College.

As I was reading about this role I was really excited about the research being engaged in at the Center. Being able to work on the U-FERN project would be an incredible opportunity and something that I am deeply interested in. As an instructor who has worked in the classroom and labs I was always searching for ways to increase engagement and learning success. I feel strongly this research could make a direct and positive impact on the delivery of STEM education and also on the ability to increase access for underrepresented students.

My long term goal is to eventually gain a PhD. This position would allow me to engage in research I find fascinating and potentially open up a long term career path. I hope I am able to speak more in person about my interest in this role.

Thanks for your time,
David Vasquez