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I am excited to be writing about the opportunity to work as a Special Project Assistant with the School of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science at Oregon State University. My goal is to pursue a graduate degree in either Computer Science or Artificial Intelligence and I feel this position would be an ideal opportunity for me to be able to gain research experience and get to know people in the college.

My background is a little unique and I have been most recently working as a Software Development Engineer at Amazon. I decided to come back to school because I have a passion for research and teaching and hope to gain my PhD and eventually become a Professor. I have been looking at the incredible research being done in the Electrical Engineering and Computer Science Department and would love to be a part of this. I think I have a lot of valuable experience and skills I could bring to this role while also being able to learn while I contribute.

My research experience includes working as a student Research Assistant with the School of Nuclear Science and Engineering at OSU. My work primarily focused on research related to the design and implementation of digital radiation detection software. I also helped co-author a grant which was awarded. My other work in this role included working in a lab with detection equipment, gathering and analyzing data and writing code. At Amazon I have gained experience working on large software applications supported by multiple teams and hundreds of engineers. In both of my roles I have worked with large data sets including my current Amazon role where I often run payloads distributed across multiple containers that would otherwise fail. My primary languages utilized include Python, Java and JavaScript. I also have experience working with cloud applications and am currently building a native iOS app with swift as a personal project.

I would bring a lot of passion and personal curiosity to this position. Currently, my research interests are rather broad and I hope in a role like this I can narrow them down and gain hands on experience in computer science and artificial intelligence. I also would love to be around faculty to learn as much as I can and feel this role would be the perfect opportunity for this. I hope to be able to speak more about my background and interest in working here.

Thanks for your time,   
David Vasquez