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July 18, 2023

Dear Hiring Committee,

My name is Suzanne Thornton and I currently work as an assistant professor of statistics at an elite private college. As the last few years have brought global catastrophe and political unrest at historic scales, I have found that I am most motivated and content when I can work in ways that help others. Thus, I am writing to apply for the XXX position at XXX, eager to begin a career of practice where I can put my strong theoretical statistical knowledge to use for good.

Since beginning my work as a statistics faculty member in 2019, my professional expertise has mainly revolved around my work as an educator and as a published statistical researcher. As an educator, I strive to make my lessons accessible and teach statistical practice as a language for understanding science that works best when it is used responsibly and ethically. All of my course content is publicly available on my personal website and I take every opportunity to communicate lessons about data and statistical literacy to audiences beyond my own classroom. As a statistical researcher, I have several technical publications involving theoretical and computational statistical developments as well as many non-technical publications on issues relevant to my discipline. I am a skilled statistical programmer (mainly working with R) and have self-taught myself various data science skills (e.g. SQL, Git) in preparation for my new career path. I am experienced with grant writing and managing/mentoring small groups of people from different backgrounds and with various skillsets. I am passionate about my service to the disciplines of statistics and data science which has provided me with many leadership opportunities. This year, I organized (and will be presenting in) a Joint Statistical Meetings conference session about incorporating social justice and ethical reasoning into the undergraduate statistics curriculum. I have also served the discipline through my work at the American Statistical Association as a founding member of the Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Organizing Group (2021) and as the appointed leader of the LGBT+ Inclusivity and Diversity Working Group (2020). In 2022, I was nominated to serve on the National Advisory committee to the US Census. I am in the second of my three year term where I work with other dedicated volunteers to make recommendations on how Census data is obtained, stored, and applied in ways that are consistent with ethical statistical practice.

I am excited about the opportunity to begin what I hope will be a life-long career at XXX. Please let me know if you have any additional questions for me and feel free to view my professional website (link below) for additional information as well. I am actively searching for fulfilling full-time career opportunities and I hope to begin my new job by the end of the calendar year. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Suzanne Thornton

Suzanne Thornton

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