**National Institute of Standards**
*Professional Research Experience Program*
*Statistical Engineering Division*

August 16, 2023

To whom it may concern,

My name is Suzanne Thornton and I am writing to apply for the NIST PREP Senior Researcher position (PREP0001716) at Johns Hopkins University: Whiting School of Engineering. After teaching college-level statistics for the past few years, I am looking forward to orienting the next chapter of my career towards statistical practice. Having had the opportunity to work as a part-time statistical consultant while in grad school and in my collaborations with applied statisticians since, I have found that I am most motivated and content when I can apply statistical theory and programming to solve real-world problems. I am especially eager to begin a career of practice where I can put my strong theoretical statistical knowledge to use in service to the American public.

Since beginning my work as a statistics faculty member in 2019, my professional expertise has 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 programer 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 presented in) a session at the Joint Statistical Meetings 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 a career at NIST and I am applying for all three available researcher positions at JHU. 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. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

**Suzanne Thornton**

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