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Dear Reader,

My name is Edwin Gonzalez, and I write this letter with great interest in your company. I am a recent graduate from USC, where I obtained my Bachelor of Science in Applied & Computational Mathematics and minor in Computer Programming. I am a Full-Stack Developer and with an interest incorporating my mathematical background to build and analyze processes. In the future, I plan to dive further into implementing DevOps and security practices.

My development background comes from learned programming and development through a traditional classroom setting and in a self-taught fashion. In a classroom, I learned the basic concepts of OOP, data structures and algorithms within C++, later moving onto mobile development for both Android and IOS and lastly, web development. Regarding being self-taught, I learned through reading online resources such as documentation for Git, React, Node, AWS, watching individuals build projects on YouTube and ultimately building small projects to test my understanding. I dove further into web development because during my time with the startup Teens Exploring Technology (TXT), which is a non-profit organization that works with local South Los Angeles youth (8th - 12th grade). There I was tasked to expose a group of four students to a full cycle of product development which included technological, project management, and entrepreneurship aspects. I was first challenged in learning how to create web applications (front & backend) and then learn how to teach these technologies and best practices. During my time there, I picked up HTML, CSS, and JavaScript; other programs and technologies included: PhoneGap, Photoshop, Bootstrap and Firebase. As a mentor, I would teach and share these concepts by having them do exercises and small projects. One example being how to make a lightbulb toggle between on and off, which gave an introduction to event listeners and jQuery. I was also responsible for troubleshooting students' projects and serve as a reference, which pushed me to be agile and to not only keep up to date on technologies, but also understand where they faced confusion and construct alternative examples.

After finishing my internship with TXT, I began working on various side/academic projects which varied in programming languages from HTML, CSS, JS, PHP, SQL, Objective-C, Swift, and Java. Through those projects and my hunger to become a better developer, I was able to land my current position as a Full-Stack Developer at Avenue I Media. Avenue I Media is a data firm that creates websites, drives organic traffic to their own and third-party sites. While working here, I learned Python (*Pandas, NumPy, Beautiful Soup*) to automate tasks such as collecting stats on site traffic, adjusting proxy settings in bulk, and even building a chrome extension. The biggest challenge I faced was in creating a data visualization application for our Traffic Acquisition team to analyze keywords performance on particular campaigns. That application was built using React, *Apex,* a charting library, AWS technologies on the backend and hosted through Amplify. It was my first React project and I had full control on how I wanted the app to respond and look. I was responsible for delegating tasks between myself and other two other developers as well as communicating to CEO, Director of Traffic Acquisitions, and our Data Scientist on the functionality of the application. I was in charge of version control, testing, and overall code review (*BitBucket*).

At this job, my projects vary whether it is learning a new technology we want to implement on a project or updating preexisting templates for websites (custom or *WordPress*) or writing a script to automate a task, I know I enjoy working in a collective and I always want to understand why certain methodologies and technologies are used in creation of applications. I am willing to put in the work, learn new frameworks and technology, try new things and be part of team that pushes each other to not only be great developer but also great people. I want to be able to apply these ideas across the stack and find a place where my company provides me the opportunity to learn and that they have the confidence that they know I can figure it out.

The reason I want to leave my current company is because our development team is relatively young and I want to gain a perspective on from larger and more established company. Be able to see how their tech stack is constructed also being able to work alongside and pick the brains of more experienced developers.

If given the opportunity, you would become a contributor to my journey and development as a developer and you as a company, would be investing in young mind and someone who is ready to take on any challenge. I know I can promise you that if I do not know something, I will put in the time and effort to learn, grow and improve in order to go beyond the needs of a team or role. With my current understanding of concepts of web development and coding practices I know I can be a great asset to your team. I was able to start and bootstrap myself and I am ready to learn!

This is a glance into my story and would welcome the opportunity to be a part of your team. Thank you for your time and consideration, and I hope to hear from you soon.

Best Regards,

Edwin Gonzalez