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Department of Economics
University of Nebraska at Omaha
6001 Dodge Street
Omaha, NE 68182

Dear Search Committee Chair,

I am writing to apply for the position of Assistant Professor at University of Nebraska at Omaha, as advertised on JOE. I expect to graduate in May 2021 with my PhD in Economics from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. My area of specialization is Applied Microeconomics, with an emphasis on Public Economics, Urban Economics, and Innovation Economics. My research interests, skillset, and experience make me an excellent candidate for this position at UNO.

My current research focuses on the prevalence and prevention of rental housing evictions. In my job market paper, I explore the potential of unemployment insurance (UI) to serve as an eviction prevention program by mitigating the effect of unemployment on eviction. I construct a large dataset using state-level UI benefit information from the Department of Labor's Employment & Training Administration, as well as county-level eviction filing rates from the Eviction Lab. I exploit variation in UI benefits across states and over time to estimate the effect of benefits on filing rates. I find that when UI benefits are low, an increase in the unemployment rate leads to an increase in eviction filings; while when benefits are high, an increase in the unemployment rate leads to an increase in eviction filings. My current research signals a broader interest in issues affecting low- to moderate-income families. I am interested in continuing to pursue research topics that can influence Federal, state, or local public policies created to improve our communities.

I am excited about the prospect of teaching at UNO. I have served as an Instructor of Record for three courses: Principles of Microeconomics Recitation, International Economics (Online), and Economics of a Global Sustainable Society (Online). Through these courses, I have gained experience in teaching and curriculum development. Serving as both an in-person and online instructor has given me the opportunity to develop my ability to foster learning environments for diverse learners. Further, having served as an instructor for undergraduate level courses, I am particularly fond of teaching Principles classes. I enjoy having the opportunity to introduce students to a subject that I find exciting. As a researcher who enjoys working with and visualizing data, I would welcome the opportunity to teach courses in Business Analytics and/or Data Analytics.

UNO's strong integration with local employers is of particular interest to me. Prior to graduate school I worked with the nonprofit Impact Alabama (now Impact America) in Birmingham, AL. Over the course of my two years there, I worked with numerous student volunteers from local universities that our organization partnered with. I saw the value of integrating classroom learning with real world service. These students gained valuable experiences and they were always the best volunteers. I am familiar

with ways of incorporating community engagement into the classroom and I am excited about the opportunity to build partnerships that will aid my students and my community.

I am available for virtual interviews on demand. I am including my CV, job market paper, teaching evaluations, and statemen on teaching philosophy. Letters of recommendation have been requested and will follow. Please visit my website: www.kelsighobbs.com for my complete profile and do not hesitate to contact me for additional information.

Thank you for your consideration,

Kelsi G. Hobbs

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