K. Joseph Shrestha

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~~December 8, 2015~~

~~Search Committee Chair~~

~~Department of Construction Management~~

~~University of~~

~~Address 1~~

~~Address 2~~

~~Dear Search Committee Chair:~~

I am writing to express my keen interest in the ~~Assistant Professor Position in the~~ ~~Department of Construction Management at the University, which I saw advertised in Associate School of Construction website.~~ My combination of research, teaching, and industry experiences seem to fit this position.

Currently, I am a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Civil, Construction, and Environmental Engineering at Iowa State University. My dissertation will be completed by Spring 2016. Over the past four years of my graduate studies, I have worked on national and state-level research projects (NCHRP and DOT sponsored projects) totaling over a million dollars. I am a lead student researcher for three projects of amount $314,517. My research is focused on automating and enhancing construction data collection and utilization methods. I have utilized bid data and daily work report data to determine highway construction cost index, develop as-built and as-planned schedule, and estimate preconstruction and construction costs. The automated and enhanced methodologies will enable construction project owners and managers to make decisions effectively, reliably, and accurately.

As grant proposal writing is an important skill for a faculty member, I attended three grant-writing seminars that provided me with valuable skills necessary to write a successful grant proposal. I have closely worked with my advisor and utilized the skills I developed to write a successful grant proposal of $152,463 to develop an advanced highway construction cost index that has been funded by the Montana Department of Transportation (MDT). I am currently writing another proposal to MDT to better utilize its construction data.

As an instructor and guest lecturer, I have taught *Bidding Construction Projects, Construction Finance and Business Management,* and *Research Methodology in Construction Engineering*. I was also involved in four other classes as a teaching assistant. I have mentored five undergraduates and three graduate students for their studies and research. The teaching and mentoring experience gave me opportunities to learn challenges and methods to overcome them to become a successful instructor. For example, if students are not doing well on numerical homework, I will give in-class exercises to ensure that concepts required for the homework are conveyed properly.

Before coming to graduate school, I worked in road survey, design, and estimation for a year and half. For one of the projects, my team and I walked over 10 hours each way with total station and other survey equipment to reach and return from the survey site. I gained not only industry experience but also learned life lessons such as perseverance and determination. During the same time, I have also developed computer software systems for engineering design and project management such as surface distress index calculator and district water supply, sanitation, and hygiene management information system. I am utilizing my computer programming knowledge to develop an automation tool for highway construction cost index for a research project.

At Iowa State University, I have attended Industry Advisory Council meetings for Construction Engineering. I got an opportunity not only to understand industry expectations with the graduates from the school, but also additional duties that faculty members have. Preparing for Future Faculty class that I took also gave me better understanding of overall faculty life and their responsibilities including the research, teaching, committees, and outreach. I believe that the valuable insights I obtained from those activities will aid me to become a successful faculty member.

During my time in graduate school, I polished my communication and leadership skills by participating in a number of engineering and non-engineering student organizations such as student chapter of American Society of Civil Engineers, student chapter of Engineers without Borders, Tau Beta Pi, Graduate and Professional Student Senate (GPSS), and Nepalese Student Association. My initiation as a GPSS senate to establish a writing center for graduate students gave graduate students access to the media and writing center at Iowa State University. I have also formed a team to organize Nepalese cultural night at the University of Nevada Las Vegas.

From my studies and industry experience, I have acquired knowledge in data mining, preconstruction and construction cost estimation, daily work report, progress monitoring, as-built scheduling, as-planned scheduling, and computer programming. I believe I have developed skills necessary to become a successful faculty member and departmental citizen.

I am excited to bring my skills and experience to this position. I believe I would be a part of the great team at ~~the University to develop tomorrow’s leaders for this global and multicultural society~~.

Thank you for your time going through the application. I look forward hearing from you.

Sincerely,

K. Joseph Shrestha