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American Institutes for Research  
1000 Thomas Jefferson Street, NW

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To Whom It May Concern,

As someone who tries to keep tracks of polling averages and trends in public opinion on websites like FiveThirtyEight and Real Clear Politics, I have always been interested in political trends. The Hub Project interests me because it analyzes these trends and provides valuable information to campaigns figuring out the best ways to reach out to constituents. I would like to combine this interest in polling with the skillset that I have developed in my economics coursework and prior experience in campaign organizing to provide valuable insights to progressive leaning campaigns in the Polling & Analytics Associate Role at The Hub Project.

As an International Economics major at the University of Notre Dame, I was often tasked with looking at survey data and trying to find insights from that data. For instance, in a Development Economics class, I used survey data from a demographic study in Africa to examine the relationship between trust and education levels. Using Stata to develop an econometric model, I found a statistically significant relationship between trust in one another and education levels after controlling for several other variables. I believe that this type of coursework has provided me with data analysis skills that would be useful when analyzing polling data and synthesizing information at The Hub Project.

As a Campaign Organizing Intern at Environment Virginia, I was responsible for engaging with volunteers and understanding their motivations surrounding energy and environmental policy in the Commonwealth of Virginia. During this time, I talked to local citizens at community events to hear their perspective. Then, using a voter file database, we were able to identify and communicate with our campaign supporters. This process allowed me to get a sense of the difficulties and challenges that campaigns face when they are trying to make a difference in the community. I believe that having this grassroots campaign experience will be useful in a role that requires examining the best practices for these types of campaigns.

I want to continue to improve upon and apply the analytical skills that I have developed in school and through my experiences towards making a difference. Please consider placing me on your interview schedule. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Zachary Spahr