

Dr. xxx,

Thank you for visiting the Spielman lab and sharing your intention of a new direction for the lab. I am very happy to learn of this and I appreciate your request and the opportunity to share my thoughts and ideas and how I can contribute towards the best use of the space.

### **My ideas for the Spielman Lab**

In order to achieve its mission the Colin Powell School of Civic and Global Leadership at City College (CPS) has indicated that “The faculty and students promote the highest standards of intellectual inquiry while examining patterns in our cultures, worldwide economic activity and reasoning, the relations and institutions of power, and the dynamics of cognition and social interactions”. Based on this goal and the interactions I have had with faculty over the last several years I believe that the perfect avenue for this is to create a Data Analytics Center rather than another research lab for specific professors. This would have a more far reaching impact as currently, there is no place in the School that provides the support to professors or students who would like to do data analytics.

Professors and students can be overwhelmed by the vast amount of hardware and software used to collect, manage, store and analyze data, and they need this type support. With the proper hardware, software and staff, this Center can have the resources needed by CPS professors to collect, manage, and store data sets of any size as well as the ability to visualize and analyze relationships, patterns and trends in these data sets. The Center staff can provide services such as application development, database management, workshops and trainings. Such a center can also be an incubator for students interested in data analytics. And its staff can be the liaison to OIT on technical issues.

For example, Professor Timothy Ellmore has over a terabyte of data from studies conducted on the brain and he is looking for a way to convert the data to a common format that would allow it to be used by other software packages. Through my relationship with another Professor (Grossberg) I am currently working with one of his students to create a conversion script for the data. I have similar relationships with other faculty and staff that I can use to enhance the services offered by the Center.

### **Some background on me**

I am a creative problem solver who is passionate about using technology to find new ways to solve problems and I have technical skills and experience gained over the years working on the technical side of Market Research. If selected I see my role as creating the technological space and support where users can find solutions to technology issues they may encounter collecting, managing, storing and analyzing data.

Some of the areas I have worked in include system administration, software development and testing, technical support and training, data collection, storage and management. To keep my

skills current and develop new skills, I maintain a LINUX server that I use to host a webserver and personal projects using PHP, JQUERY, GeoServer, OpenGeo/Boundles stack, QGIS and Bootstrap. I also attend meetups and hackathons working with other professionals presently working with data and the latest software. I am currently working with the Zahn Center on its first upcoming hackathon in November of this year.

**Some projects I've worked on include**

- Created a web based application which I used to maintain an inventory of the high value purchases of the OIT Department.
- Worked with Daniel Fimiarez, the Research Facility Manager in the Division of Science, to develop a web application to manage the move of faculty/researchers and their equipment from the Marshak Building to their new building on South Campus.
- I am currently working with a nonprofit organization (ICG) to create a web portal displaying information about the status of the United Nations millennium goals that have been implemented by each country.
- I am currently working with the Department of Psychology Chairperson, Professor Melera to create an application to help him manage classroom assignment. He has been using a Google spreadsheet.
- Although I no longer work with OIT, I continue to work with the web content person in the department to setup, configure and troubleshoot the back end of all the Wordpress websites requested by faculty and staff.

I am excited about your new direction for the Spielman Lab and I believe that as the Spielman Lab for Data Analytics it has the potential to serve CPS in ways that have never been explored before. I also think that Mr. Spielman would be very impressed with your ideas for this new direction. Thank you again. I look forward to discussing this further with you.