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ActBlue | Outreach Reporting & Research Intern

To the members of Reporting and Research team—

Being interested in multiple areas and fields throughout my undergraduate education, I am constantly sharpening my skills to become a great benefit to any company in the future. While this means that I have had a very diverse set of professional experiences over these past two years, I have learned a vast amount from each industry I have been a part of, making me a valuable candidate for the Outreach Reporting & Research Internship at ActBlue.

I started my professional journey doing community outreach and political engagement by being a part of multiple organizations, such as NextGen Florida and Organizing Together 2020, where I volunteered as a phone banker and canvasser, while also tabling at numerous events to register students at UCF to vote in local and national elections. These efforts have culminated in me being on track to receive a paid fellowship with NextGen Florida in the fall to now having a job as a Field Representative for Progressive Turnout Project. Politics reverberates throughout all aspects of our lives and through this line of work, I am able to communicate this message to all members of my community. This complemented some other efforts I did on my part, which included creating new success metrics for my team and standards for future field organizing. More importantly, this illustrates my capability to function well within a large group of people, taking the lead and guiding groups of people myself, and even working independently of other interns. All of these skills are especially important for an internship at ActBlue because, in order to properly engage with others on the ActBlue Outreach team, you need to have knowledge of how political outreach works broadly and working with electoral campaigns like I have provides me with such knowledge.

My communication and research aptitude is highlighted through prior internships outlined in my resumé, most notably my time spent at The Hub Project and UCF School of Politics, Security, and International Affairs. However, providing more context for these roles better illustrates the impact I can have at ActBlue. Operating in small teams, I was given a large amount of autonomy over all sorts of projects, ranging from semester-long, public-facing factsheet endeavors to simply covering for a coworker by taking their role of notetaking in a meeting. Everything I did was intentional. Some of my work had to be directly judged by high-ranking staff members for approval and some of it was directly published on multiple websites for the public eye to decide if what I wrote was accurately displayed. Not only does this showcase my high attention to detail for the end result, but it especially highlights my ability to work and solve problems on my own, independent basis. These skills are also shown when I worked as a Research Fellow at UW Tacoma. There, I received firsthand experience with programming and writing code with a purpose. Operating at the intersection of Computer Science, Math, and Geography, I was shipping out code that analyzed the large sets of U.S. Census data we were working with, along with learning new languages and frameworks in order to fill in the gaps found within our research.

I have demonstrated my interest in more research-oriented and analytical work through my past work experience interning at the Council on Foreign Relations and Swing Left, utilizing my growing expertise in research and applying it in a different context. During my time at the CFR, I worked as one of two Interns within the entire Editorial team,

taking great autonomy over my work and being trusted with high-level responsibilities that had an impact on everything the organization put out. Even with these responsibilities, however, I took over more work with the User Experience and Data Visualization team, designing maps, putting together charts, and creating images within quick turnaround times that complimented the stories CFR found extremely important. Manipulating data and illustrating it visually for readers to see gave me a new appreciation for unconventional storytelling and informs how I approach writing to this day, which I will for sure bring to the table as a Research Intern. At Swing Left, I led multiple projects that dealt with writing FAQ documents for the entire company, using machine learning for cross-team projects, and even overhauling our entire database infrastructure to improve the experience for the Product and Tech teams. I can take these skills and apply them as an Intern at ActBlue, whether that be creating spreadsheets, connecting data pipelines, or mapping out information for HubSpot users. By no means am I an expert in every technical aspect of research, but working at this organization will allow me to nurture the skills I already have and learn from the experts found on the Reporting and Research team.

While these experiences display my vast interest in joining ActBlue, this does not overshadow how much I believe in the mission of the organization. Throughout my professional experience within the political space, I have come to understand the importance of donations and how they are truly a vehicle for empowering nonprofits and campaigns alike to serve the people they want to help the most. By being a part of ActBlue, I can be a part of the organization's goal of maintaining a powerful, robust online donation platform for Democratic candidates, allowing me to make a change for those around me. Wholeheartedly.

Thank you for your consideration and I look forward to growing with you all.

Avery Reyna