DWAYNE CHRISTIAN BROWN, JR. ("CHRIS")
DOCTORAL CANDIDATE | COMPUTER SCIENCE | NORTH CAROLINA STATE UNIVERSITY

✉ dcbrow10@ncsu.com ⚲ Raleigh, NC ⚲ https://chbrown13.github.io ⚲ chbrown13 🐦 @d_chrisbrown2

Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University
Division of Human Resources, Talent Acquisition Team
North End Center Suite 2300
300 Turner Street NW
Blacksburg, VA 24061   November 4, 2020

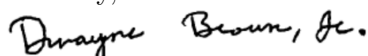Dear Department of Computer Science at Virginia Tech Selection Committee:

As a doctoral candidate in Computer Science, I read with great interest the advertisement for Teaching and Research Faculty in the College of Engineering at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. My career goal is to become a Computer Science faculty member to advance knowledge, facilitate student learning, and increase diversity in the computing field. I believe my research interests, teaching experiences, and commitment to diversity and inclusion have prepared me to excel in this role.

I am completing my Ph.D. in Computer Science at North Carolina State University under the advisement of Dr. Chris Parnin. My research explores ways to improve the productivity and decision-making of software engineers using concepts from behavioral science, such as *nudge theory*, to increase adoption of useful programming tools and practices. My research has been published and presented at peer-reviewed research conferences and workshops. Additionally, I have presented at industry conferences to collect feedback from software practitioners and share my findings with professional developers. My experiences as a graduate student enabled me to develop valuable research skills such as designing experiments, collecting and analyzing data, publishing work, and presenting results to diverse audiences.

Furthermore, I have refined my abilities to communicate with students through experiences as the primary instructor for an introductory programming class in addition to serving as a teaching assistant for two undergraduate courses. I will also be completing requirements for the Teaching and Communication Graduate Certificate (TCC) with a focus on fostering inclusivity in higher education through taking TCC courses such as *Accessibility in the Classroom* and *Teaching about Identity, Diversity, and Equity*. Beyond my academic experience, I am committed to and passionate about increasing diversity in STEM, specifically within Computer Science. I have participated in many organizations and communities focusing on diversity in computing, such as the National Society of Blacks in Computing (NSBC), Blacks United In Leadership and Diversity (BUILD) at Red Hat, the NC State Minority Engineering Graduate Student Association (MEGSA). Additionally, I have participated in many service activities concerned with reaching underserved populations in STEM, including the Coding School codeConnects program that teaches programming to minority high school students through one-on-one mentoring and volunteering for the INTech Mini-Camp introducing website design and HTML to African American middle school girls.

If selected for this position, I aim to further my research exploring techniques and tools to improve developer behavior, instruct and mentor students, and work to increase diversity in computing. I am very eager to pursue collaborations with software engineering researchers Dr. Na Meng, Dr. Francisco Servant, and Dr. Mohammed Seyam at VT, as well as faculty members in other computing research areas such as Drs. Cliff Shaffer and Stephen H. Edwards, external academic researchers, and industry partners. To prepare students for technology careers, I will incorporate knowledge gained from my industry experiences and cutting edge software engineering concepts into course materials. I will also work to increase diversity in the department and the general STEM community through creating diverse and inclusive classroom and research environments in addition to participating in outreach projects and communities that serve minorities. Thank you for your consideration of my application and I look forward to the opportunity to join Virginia Tech at the rank of Assistant Professor in the Department of Computer Science.

Sincerely,

Dwayne Brown, Jr.

Dwayne Brown, Jr. ("Chris")