

KEVIN A. ANGSTADT

Computer Science and Engineering
University of Michigan
2260 Hayward Street, 2909 Beyster Bldg.
Ann Arbor, MI 48109-2121

 
 angstadt@umich.edu
 <https://web.eecs.umich.edu/~angstadt>

Associate Professor Stephen Majercik
Faculty Search Committee Chair
Department of Computer Science
Bowdoin College
8650 College Station
Brunswick, ME 04011

October 8, 2019

Re: Application for Assistant Professor of Computer Science, Search F00138JP

Dear Professor Majercik:

I am writing in response to your advertisement for the position of Assistant Professor of Computer Science at Bowdoin College. Currently, I am a PhD candidate in Computer Science and Engineering at the University of Michigan, and I expect to receive my PhD by May 2020. I work under the supervision of Professor Westley Weimer in the intersection of computer architecture, software engineering, and programming languages. I also hold degrees from St. Lawrence University and the University of Virginia. Further, I am a citizen of the United States.

I am particularly interested in a faculty position in a department that supports and emphasizes undergraduate education, research, and mentorship. My own education in the Liberal Arts helped to shape my pedagogical outlook—I am a firm believer in the importance and benefit of Bowdoin’s small class sizes, breadth of study, and focus on big picture ideas. I am passionate about teaching at all levels of the CS curriculum, from attempting to broaden participation in lower-level classes to challenging students in upper-level electives. As a graduate student at the Universities of Virginia and Michigan, I have pursued every opportunity to teach and develop as an educator. For example, I have been the primary instructor for four courses (teaching approximately 200 students across six semesters), have participated in Tomorrow’s Professor Today at Virginia, and am completing the Graduate Teaching Certificate at Michigan. I believe my teaching experience, philosophy, and topics of interest would complement and expand the expertise of your current faculty.

Additionally, I am seeking research opportunities that allow me to continue an active research program studying programming support for new and emerging technologies with students. My experience working in the intersection of several fields has helped me develop the ability to communicate across communities and identify synergistic opportunities for collaboration. My resume and research statement detail my commitment to mentoring undergraduate students on research projects. My research admits projects that are approachable and engaging for students, ranging from more theoretical reasoning to hands-on systems design and implementation. I

also enjoy supporting the interests and enthusiasm of students who pursue projects outside my nominal areas of expertise. I am particularly impressed by your department's variety of funding sources for summer research and believe these opportunities align well with my own interests in supporting student research.

I am also committed to efforts that broaden participation in computing and support and encourage diversity in the CS community. As noted in my application materials, I have experience developing and facilitating workshops for helping teaching assistants identify and mitigate barriers to success in computing (including stereotype threat, impostor syndrome, and defensive climates). Further, I have experience acquiring internal university funding for a mentorship-focused speaker series that exposes students to successful computer scientists with diverse career, scholastic, and life experiences. As a faculty member, I intend to continue pursuing similar activities in addition to studying the relationship between CS education and student identity.

Enclosed are my curriculum vitae, teaching philosophy, research statement, and diversity statement. I would be delighted to discuss my materials and qualifications in more detail with you. Thank you very much for considering my application, and I hope to hear from you soon.

Most sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "K. A. Angstadt", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Kevin A. Angstadt

encl: Curriculum Vitae
Teaching Philosophy
Research Statement
Diversity Statement