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Postdoctoral Search Committee  
Department of Mathematics  
University of Colorado Boulder  
Boulder, Colorado 80309

Dear Members of the Search Committee,

My name is Justin Barhite, and I am currently a graduate student at the University of Kentucky working in algebraic topology. I expect to receive my Ph.D. in May 2023 under the direction of Dr. Kate Ponto. I am writing to apply for the Visiting Teaching Assistant Professor position in your department.

In the long term, I am looking for a teaching-focused position at a primarily undergraduate institution, and the postdoctoral teaching position at CU Boulder would be an excellent step toward that goal. While I am mainly interested in teaching, working in a department with faculty whose research interests are close to mine (in particular, Agnès Beaudry and Sarah Petersen) would help me stay connected to the research community in preparation for a position that is primarily focused on teaching but still has some research expectations. I would also be thrilled to live in Boulder, since I have family in Longmont (and I love the mountains).

As a graduate student at UK, I have taught a wide range of courses as instructor of record, and I am passionate about providing uplifting educational experiences, especially to those who have struggled with math in the past. I would be delighted to teach courses across your mathematics curriculum, to coordinate multi-section courses, and to engage in professional development and service opportunities. I am also interested in the scholarship of teaching and learning; I recently collaborated with several members of my department on a paper about growth-focused grading schemes such as standards- and specifications-based grading.

Below are some highlights of my file which demonstrate how I can contribute to CU Boulder's educational mission.

1. **Breadth of teaching experience.** I have taught a variety of courses as instructor of record, including College Algebra, Calculus III, and three courses for future educators at the elementary, middle, and secondary levels. I have also led recitations for Calculus I and Calculus II, including two semesters in MathExcel, a program to support students in first-year calculus through intensive group learning. I have actively worked to improve my teaching effectiveness and implement evidence-based, student-centered pedagogical approaches. I received the University of Kentucky College of Arts & Sciences Certificate for Outstanding Teaching in 2021 and the University of Kentucky Provost's Award for Outstanding Teaching in 2022.

2. **Commitment to service and diversity, inclusion, and equity (DEI) initiatives.** I have demonstrated a strong commitment to active service in my department. For example, I served as co-chair of our Graduate Student Council during the 2020-21 year, helping to revamp the GSC's website and constitution, organize volunteers for prospective student visits, and coordinate virtual social events to help integrate new graduate students into our department. In August 2021 I facilitated, together with two faculty members, a workshop for faculty and graduate students in the math department on the subject of making language in the syllabus (and communication with students more broadly) more inclusive.

My application includes a curriculum vitae, a teaching statement, a diversity/inclusion statement, and evidence of teaching excellence. It also includes three recommendation letters from my advisor Kate Ponto ([kate.ponto@uky.edu](mailto:kate.ponto@uky.edu)), Brad Elliott ([bradley.elliott@uky.edu](mailto:bradley.elliott@uky.edu)), and Erica Whitaker ([ewhitaker@uky.edu](mailto:ewhitaker@uky.edu)).

Please let me know if there is any additional information I can supply. I am happy to provide further evidence of teaching effectiveness, such as student evaluations, or other materials, on request. You can reach me by email ([justin.barhite@uky.edu](mailto:justin.barhite@uky.edu)) or by phone at (920) 362-1359.

Thank you in advance for your time and consideration. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Justin Barhite



University of Kentucky