

City University

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Dr. J. Smith
987 6th Ave.
Portland, OR 97223

Dear Dr. Smith:

I am writing to express my interest in the position you posted this week seeking an Assistant Professor. I currently teach Writing 210, Personal and Professional Assessment, and Christian Faith and Thought courses as an adjunct professor. I began teaching at an adjunct level at the Portland campus in March of 2013, and I have enjoyed working with all of you as we seek to further improve a program that has seen remarkable growth. I look forward to seeing some of the changes implemented in the year ahead. I thoroughly enjoy the richness of experience in an adult classroom, as well as the students' desire for immediate application.

I have a Ph.D. in English from the University of Denver, an MFA in creative writing from Colorado State University, and a BA in communications/journalism from Pacific Lutheran University. In addition to the courses I am currently teaching, I have taught a variety of university-level literature, composition, and creative writing courses – face-to-face, hybrid, and online – including Beginning and Advanced Composition, Writing Arguments, Introduction to American Literature, Native American Literature, Literature of the American West, Beginning and Advanced Creative Writing, Introduction to Poetry, Introduction to Fiction Writing, and Beginning and Advanced Creative Writing Workshop. I also have worked at writing centers at three universities over the years, for a total of 10 years of writing center experience.

I have published more than 100 book reviews and critical essays, and my book *Angling for Repose: Wallace Stegner and the De-Mythologizing of the American West* was published in the spring of 2010. While my doctoral studies covered both poetry and fiction from *Beowulf* to the 21st century, my individual doctoral work centered primarily on the literature of the American West. In addition to my academic work experience, I am a former journalist and a fiction writer, I write regular book reviews for the *Portland Book Review*, and last year I published three children's books with Oxford University Press.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Respectfully,

Dr. J. A. Harrop