

CDIP Applicant  
Name  
Email address  
Phone number  
Re: Chancellor's Doctoral Incentive Program

### **Qualifications and Motivation Statement**

Thank you for this opportunity to apply for the Chancellor's Doctoral Incentive Program. My graduate career at a California State University (CSU) campus has been exceptional, and in the future, I hope to be a part of the high caliber of teaching that I experienced as a student.

My academic preparation for entrance into a Ph.D. program has been more than adequate and my current status as a second semester Ph.D. student at an out of state university proves this point. My preparation, however, was not a sole endeavor, I attribute much, and if not all of it to the guidance and support I received from the faculty at the CSU campus I attended. There I maintained a 3.959 GPA as a Master's student and graduated with distinction. Currently I have 4.0 as a Ph.D. student. Although classroom activities were essential to my acceptance into a Ph.D. program, I believe much of it was due to activities conducted outside of my curriculum. These include serving as a teaching assistant and involvement in other projects beyond the classroom.

Fortunately I have had supportive colleagues and professors throughout my academic career. My professors at the CSU campus I attended encouraged me to conduct research in my areas of interest, gave excellent pedagogical advice, and overall, served as excellent examples of the type of teacher I hope to become. Some of the projects I was encouraged to engage in include conference presentation, paper submission, and teaching and learning techniques. So far I have presented research at four professional conferences, three while at the CSU and one while at my current Ph.D. institution. I have also presented at school research conferences and have two published peer-reviewed articles. My first research paper on political participation focuses on felony disenfranchisement laws and minority voter turnout. I also co-authored one other article in correctional research, and I authored a book chapter.

The latter work has helped sharpen my writing and analytical skills, boost my confidence in producing high quality work, allow me to do work that I enjoy, and contribute to my lesson plans in the American Government class I currently teach. Important, is that the support I have received from CSU faculty has proven valuable – I am accessible to my students and encourage their academic development through critical thinking exercises and the use of multiple learning techniques.

Other work that contributes to my professional development, both in research and the classroom include my current research projects. I am currently collaborating with a CSU graduate student to research the political attitudes and behaviors of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgendered individuals. I am also serving as a survey administrator and contact for a project out of a prominent Midwestern university on Black American attitudes towards Latinos in a southern community. Involvement in these projects will undoubtedly help to advance my professional

career and supply me with substantive subjects with which to engage students in discussion of contemporary social and political dilemmas.

I want to make it clear how much I recognize how fortunate I am to have been a student at the CSU. I was educated at a University that grants graduate students opportunities to teach and develop critical skills relevant to their professional goals. For example, there I served as a Graduate Assistant for Introduction to American Government for four semesters. It is through this experience that I discovered the joy of teaching and how much thought needs to go into engaging students through different learning techniques. I also served as an Interim Instructor for that course and Vital Political Problems. I am constantly adapting lesson plans to make the subject area more interesting to students.

I am currently an instructor of record for American Government at the out of state university I attend for my Ph.D. and I cannot express how much I enjoy teaching this course. Now that I have full control of the curriculum, I have made sure that my students are exposed to a variety of classic and contemporary materials. What I care about most is that they come out of class better understanding the institutions, populous, and overall, world in which they live.

Teaching at the out of state University will compliment my experience with a diverse population. I am also a former Peace Corps volunteer who served in Africa. In conjunction with my experiences as a Peace Corps volunteer, my current residence in a diverse community further cultivates my understanding of the multiplicity of experiences, norms, and cultures that students embody. This community has a diverse culture with various levels of socioeconomic status, and racial distinctiveness. Further, much like the CSU system, the out of state university is a state school that represents a diverse student body and is a pathway to higher education for many who come from a low socio-economic status background.

I am more than motivated to teach in the California State University school system. This is not only because I thoroughly enjoy teaching at the university level, but because I wholeheartedly believe that it is a good university system. Because the system provides opportunities for education that would not be available otherwise, it would not only feel good to be a part of it, but I have much to contribute.

Sincerely,

Signature of CDIP Applicant