

16 December 2018

The Honorable Tom Wolf, Governor
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
508 Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Governor Wolf,

In October of this year, I heard you speak at the Women's Conference in Philadelphia. You inspired me with your strong, forward-thinking vision for Pennsylvania's future.

As a lifelong resident of Pennsylvania, I have strong opinions on shoo-fly pie (it must be wet-bottom or it is a sham) and what kind of administration I'd like to work for (forward-thinking, full of integrity, and effective).

In the attached resume, I hope you find an employee who can walk in and deliver in key areas: data insights, leadership, accountability, and cost savings. With this letter, I'd like to provide some perspective on who I am as a person so you can decide if I'm a good fit for your team.

Currently, one way I support your Action Plan is through my position in the Public School Employees' Retirement System (PSERS). My team serves active and retiring employees by making sure our members receive every benefit they earned through their years of service.

One of my proudest moments was assisting a former high school history teacher as he planned his own retirement. Schools that Teach gave me a solid foundation to be a productive, contributing member of the Commonwealth. It is an honor to give back to those who invested their time in me.

When I was growing up in Lebanon County, my dad worked for the Bethlehem Steel Mill. This supported our family until it closed in the mid 80's and he was forced to look for work again. Jobs that Pay were in short supply at the time, so with no prior computer skills he taught himself how to use a CAD-CAM system (computer aided design and manufacturing). Everyone in the family had to adapt. Now, as business needs and the workforce continuously change, adaptability is a top priority when I build a team.

Recently Act 5 Pension Reform brought big changes to PSERS. In response, my team took on additional duties, committing to build a new work unit and develop an efficient process. We deliberately placed it in an area which would reduce the number of handoffs so it could be "Lean" from the start. I pass on my dad's example of adaptability when I challenge my team to learn, improve, and look to the future.

In September and October of this year, friends and family lost me to a frenzy of activity: Code4PA, the call to use Pennsylvania's Open Data portals to build insight and propose new solutions to the opioid epidemic facing our Commonwealth. Exactly the sort of work I find inspiring!

The truth is, I love data. I believe in using data to inform decisions and guide our course. In addition, human beings and their stories are what make data meaningful. Government that Works meets the needs of its citizens, wherever they are. A colleague recently lost her son to the opioid epidemic, so Code4PA was a direct road to my heart and every spare moment I had to offer. My partner and I agonized together for hours --literally counting syllables -- as we attempted to wedge a huge amount of

information and our best ideas into a 5-minute time slot. The team put in two months of the most thrilling voluntary hard work imaginable, solely for the satisfaction of knowing we could make a difference.

My history teacher gave me the quote from Theodore Roosevelt: "Far and away the best prize that life has to offer is the chance to work hard at work worth doing." If you're looking for an engaged public servant, a strong, proactive communicator, and someone with a track record for creating positive change, I'd be honored to have a further opportunity to work for an administration I trust and respect, advance your vision for the future of Pennsylvania, and serve the citizens of our Commonwealth.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Kristen Shelton, Senior Benefits Manager
Public School Employees' Retirement System