

Daniel Opdahl

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About

A hard-working, experienced, results-driven team player who is self-motivated, flexible, and a fast learner... Are the bots gone yet? If you made it past the first sentence, hopefully I have your attention. Either that or you're a scraping algorithm. Either way, I'd rather tell you my story, and sell you on the holistic, authentic employee that I am, rather than cram in as many keywords as possible to boost my personal SEO like a novice tourist stuffing their suitcase. I care about three big things in my working life: doing work that gives back to the community and the world, solving challenging problems, and learning. My Teach for America experience fostered my interpersonal skills and cemented a firm devotion to giving back to my community through my work. My software development experience underscored my thirst for bigger and more challenging projects. My education reinforced my love of learning. Now, after taking a break to pursue personal aspirations, I am looking for employment that will satisfy those needs. In everything that I have done, I have always relished in new and unique opportunities to learn, solve, and be creative. Please consider me for your open position. Thank you for your time and attention.

Education

Bachelor of Arts, Luther College, Decorah, IA

June 2021

Majors: Computer Science and Physics | Minor: Spanish

- GPA: 3.8/4.0
- Dean's List Fall 2017 - Spring 2020
- Relevant Coursework:
 - Physics classes: Calculus II, Linear Algebra, Classical Physics, Modern Physics, Ordinary Differential Equations, Astrophysics, Classical Mechanics, Electronics, Electricity and Magnetism, Advanced Laboratory
 - CS classes: Logic, Algorithms & Data Structures, Software Development Tools, Fundamentals of Web Programming, Data Modeling & Querying, Object-oriented Programming with Java, Computational Models, Game Theory, Advanced Algorithms & Data Structures, Programming Languages, Data Mining, Internet Programming, Computer Networks, Operating Systems and Architecture
 - Spanish classes: Conversation & Listening Composition, Written Expression, Language & Culture of the Spanish-Speaking World: Guatemala & Costa Rica, Hispanic Literature
 - Liberal Arts classes: Civilization & the Environment, Logic, Scholars Colloquium, Human Geography, Biogeography, Shakespeare, Energy & Environment & Society, Judo, Paideia, Introduction to the New Testament, Science & Religion, Philosophy of Science

Licenses & Certifications

Licensure: Alternative Teacher License | State of Colorado | Issued: 2021

Endorsements: Science Education (7-12)

Work Experience

Teach For America

Jun 2021 - Jun 2023

Corps Member

Pueblo, CO

- Member of a highly selective non-profit organization serving students in low-income areas
- Participate in an intensive virtual summer training program to develop the skills and knowledge needed to lead rigorous, supportive, and inclusive classrooms, including instructional design, trauma-informed practice, and social-emotional learning, as well as a supervised practicum experience. Engage in professional development, including DEI seminars, discussion groups, coaching sessions, readings, and content-specific learning
- Engage in professional development specific to my teaching license area (science)
- Maintained AmeriCorps corps member status

Villa Bella Expeditionary School, Pueblo District 70

Aug 2022 - Aug 2023

Science / Computer Science / Engineering Teacher

Pueblo, CO

- Planned, organized, and implemented a new science program in an expeditionary learning environment that guided students to excel academically and become active contributors in building a better world
- Helped to establish cultural norms, policies, and procedures during the pioneering year of a middle school
- Fostered student independence and self-advocacy through classroom policies centered around personal responsibility and educational autonomy
- Gathered, processed, and returned peer student feedback while working in small groups for the benefit of students' cooperative skills
- Successfully used a school-wide restorative justice model to address student behaviors inside the classroom
- Built successful and potent relationships with students and community members and navigated parental conflicts with respect while upholding others' dignity
- Planned, implemented, and taught an original engineering course that utilized the Future City competition format. In teams of three, fifty students wrote a 3 page essay about, built a model of, and presented on a city of their own creation 100 years in the future that focused on adapting and mitigating the effects of climate change, culminating in a grade-wide competition with local engineer judges. The winning group participated in the Colorado State Future City Competition at the Colorado School of Mines in Golden, Colorado
- Organized and facilitated the school's first Science Olympiad team
- Functioned as the go-to technology expert in the building by repairing chromebook hardware (replacing screens, keyboards, etc.), troubleshooting Promethean software issues, and resolving other miscellaneous hardware issues
- Participated in Better World Day, an Expeditionary Learning annual, national event showcasing student learning that contributes to a better world

Roncalli STEM Academy, Pueblo District 60

Aug 2021 - Aug 2022

Science / Computer Science Teacher

Pueblo, CO

- Planned, organized, and implemented an appropriate instructional program in a secondary learning environment that guided and encouraged students in a low-income community to fulfill their academic potential
- Performed instructional and related duties in accordance with District policies and terms of the teacher contract

- Offered personalized after school tutoring twice a week to students requiring additional support in a variety of subjects
- Was selected to be Roncalli's staff representative at the District Accountability Board meetings
- Launched the Girls Who Code club at Roncalli, in collaboration with another teacher, specifically to engage students belonging to under-represented demographics in the field of computer science with the process of coding
- Facilitated Hour of Code activities and events during the 2021 Computer Science Education week
- Participated in, and had, 13 different students win awards in the first-ever District 60 CS Conference

Self-Employed

Oct 2021 - Jun 2022

Private Calculus Tutor

Pueblo, CO

- Provided weekly 1:1 instruction centered around homework assignments for students in a local high school's AP Calculus AB class
- Generated consistent and valuable data-driven feedback to parents and students, tracking progress, achievement, and proficiency during each unit of the curriculum

Luther College Baseball

Feb 2020 - Jun 2021

Data Analyst, Statistician

Decorah, IA

- Advised coaching staff on strategic decisions such as lineup order, optimizing pitching/ hitting matchups, and pitching rotation using ARC and team data analysis
- Assisted in baseball operations such as throwing batting practice and coaching pitchers and catchers
- Gathered data using Rapsodo machines and scorebooks during practices and scrimmages
- Built and used models to generate useful statistics (e.g. BABIP, WRC+) and probabilities for various matchups and lineups

Trimble Transportation

May 2020 - Sept 2020

Undergraduate Technical Intern

Minnetonka, MN (Remote)

- Combined efforts with development operations team to migrate CI/CD operations from GitLab and Jenkins to Buildkite in order to ease transition of ISE tools into Trimble tools
- Assisted in development operations teams' dispersion into other Trimble Transportation teams and promoted a development operations culture among other teams
- Automated Windows CI/CD runners to test deployments of the eFleetSuite API using Powershell

Innovative Software Engineering

May 2019 - Aug 2019

Undergraduate Development Operations Intern

Coralville, IA

- Automated the shutting down and spinning up AWS instances (EC2, RDS) using GitLab CI/CD to generate savings of \$5,000-\$7,000 annually
- Participated in Agile Scrum activities such as standup, sprint review & retrospective, backlog refinement, and sprint planning
- Created new eFleetSuite help site using Terraform, MkDocs, and AWS tools
- Assisted in the 2019 ISE Coding Garage by guiding highschool age students through the process of developing an Android application in Android Studio

YMCA Camp Menogyn

Jun 2013 - Aug 2013

Base Camp Engagé

Grand Marias, MN

- Worked in cohort with other staff members to maintain a clean and orderly camp environment
- Planned and participated in "summer camp" activities with campers including playing sports, telling stories, swimming, making arts and crafts, and canoeing

- Responsibilities included cleaning dishes and the mess hall after every meal, cleaning bathrooms weekly, preparing outdoor gear for group use, and ensuring a fun and welcoming environment all over camp

Projects

All projects available at github.com/dopdahl16/

Sudoku Puzzle Solver

- A sudoku puzzle solver written in Python that uses Crook's Algorithm to solve any solvable sudoku puzzle

Luther College Baseball Scoreboard

- A project that determined the frequency of digits that appeared in Luther College Baseball line scores from the previous decade in order to find the optimal amount of panels that should be bought for a new hand-turned scoreboard

Digital Audio Workstation

- A digital audio workstation written in Java, able to load, save, play, pause, resume, stop, reverse, adjust amplitude, normalize, merge, and delete .wav files, housed inside a minimalist UI

Financial Planning with Differential Equations for the Nobody's

- A project where I assumed the role of a mock financial advisor predicting return on continual investment for a fictional married couple using differential equations

La Biblioteca De Babel

- Un cuento fascinante y mis pensamientos. An essay I wrote in Spanish exploring the intersection between math and humanity in "The Library of Babel", a short story by Jorge Luis Borges

Wizards of the Driftless D&D Online Battle Facilitator

- My senior project at Luther College. An online Dungeons and Dragons battle facilitator. Users are able to add, remove, resize, and move character tokens on a user-uploaded battle map, as well as track initiatives, send chats, create characters, open private rooms, and more

Data Transfer in the Physical Layer

- A paper I wrote in conjunction with my Computer Networks class at Luther College that explores the physics of physical data transfer using LTE and free-space optical communication as guides

Should Scientific Models Be True?

- A paper that I wrote in my Philosophy of Science class at Luther College in which I argue that we should view scientific models as we view maps — as representations of the world that are useful in varying contexts, regardless of the "truth" of the model

Acoustic Levitation

- My final project for my Physics degree. A lab partner and I constructed an acoustic levitator capable of suspending a drop of water, hollow beads, and other small, lightweight objects in air between two dishes lined with sonic transducers

Analyzing how the 2017 Houston Astros benefited from cheating

- A project in which I identify and analyze the ways in which the Houston Astros benefited from stealing signs during the 2017-2019 MLB seasons by comparing the offensive production of Astros players pre-2017 and post-2017 using various tracked stats such as K-rate, meatball swing

percentage, chase rate, and more. The general finding is that some select hitters benefited greatly, while others saw little improvement in their offensive production.

Various “Saturday Morning” Baseball Statistics

- Racial Bias in Ball-Strike Decisions in MLB - pending completion of 2023 season
- Effects of Base Running Rule Changes in MiLB - A quick Sunday-morning project where I look at the effect that the bigger bases rule in Triple-A has had on stolen bases
- Heaviest Back-to-Back Homeruns - Ever wonder who the heaviest duo to ever hit back-to-back homeruns in the MLB is?

Skills

Proficient Languages:

English, Spanish

Programming Languages:

Python, Java, C++, Bash Script, Scheme, Lisp, JavaScript, MATLAB

Technical Skills:

Git, Bash, PowerShell, HTML/XML, CSS, LaTeX, SQL, MySQL, PostgreSQL, AWS (S3, RDS, ASG), Gitlab (CI/CD, Review Apps), Terraform, Load Balancers, Sage, Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Google Docs, Google Sheets, Google Slides, Google Apps, Windows 10, Linux, Android, Visual Studio Code, Arduino IDE

Other Skills:

Test automation, Web development, Development operations, Agile methods, Scrum, Organizational skills, Critical thinking, Problem solving, Analytical skills, Analytic problem solving, Creative problem solving, Creativity skills, Written communication, Communication, Interpersonal communication, Active listening, Easily adaptable, Leadership, Decision-making, Teamwork, Collaboration, Patience, Adaptability, Emotional intelligence, Self-regulation

Skills/ Qualifications

Organizational Skills

- A sense of organization is a skill that I have been able to utilize effectively to improve many projects. My education has ingrained in me the skill of organizing arguments in a functional and logical order. More practically, due to my time spent in a classroom setting, both as a student and as an instructor, I have developed vital organizational skills, where order, efficiency, and ease are essential. In my personal life, my organizational skills manifest themselves in the mantra, “A place for everything and everything in its place” and a strict adherence to that mantra.

Critical Thinking

- A liberal arts education and a love of learning has substantially shaped the way I think. A broader education benefits my ability to consider different perspectives on an issue simultaneously and fairly. Additionally, my involvement in working with different cultures and various under-served communities through TFA has given me valuable real world experience with others who disagree with me. My background in engaging with a variety of tangible issues has given me the ability to communicate complicated ideas simply and clearly. My energy and reflective nature allow me to deeply engage with challenging concepts effectively and persistently.

Analytical Skills

- A background of mathematical skills in my computer science and physics education has cultivated a set of tuned analytical skills in me. Reading data clearly and efficiently, interpreting data carefully and fairly, and drawing sound conclusions from data was a serious part of my education that I have been

able to apply effectively in the real world. In addition to raw analytical skills, I have the ability to think more broadly about data: its origins, implications, and meaning are things I consider when looking at information to be analyzed.

Problem Solving

- A deep love of problem solving inspires me to find novel solutions to interesting problems. The breadth of my education and work experience has given me the ability to generate diverse solutions, and its depth has given me a wealth of insight in approaching, evaluating, and solving problems.

Creative Problem Solving

- Robust experience in continually persevering after an idea has failed has allowed me to develop a knack for forging new, creative ways to approach and look at complex problems. In my work experience and in many of my classes, I have been continually stretched and challenged to think of new and unique approaches to problems both practical and abstract. My education across many different disciplines has not only taught me how to look at problems from different perspectives, but also to consider and appreciate the value of those different perspectives.

Communication

- I have a strong foundation in professional, academic, and personal communication due to the variety of roles and positions I've held. Being effective and efficient in my communication as an instructor in the classroom requires a different tone and approach than when I am a member of a software development team asking clarifying questions. Having worn many different hats, I am able to adapt my communication to the requirements of a variety of contexts. I know when to ask a serious question, when to speak up and speak out, when to crack a joke, and most importantly, when to listen attentively and thoughtfully.

Leadership

- Thanks to an eagerness to lead by example and my lived experience of being a community leader through Teach For America, I have strong leadership skills. I crave seeing improvement in others, and I relish in the opportunity to be the catalyst for that improvement. Leaders make their team better by setting a high standard and ensuring that each of their team members reach that bar. Leaders develop strong relationships with the individuals on their team and leverage those relationships to benefit the team's shared objectives. I've gained invaluable leadership experience through my education and Teach for America experience. Saying what needs to be said and doing what needs to be done is an intrinsic part of who I am, and it is what makes me a leader with integrity.

Teamwork

- An ability to bring people together and generate focused excitement is a vital skill that has been ingrained in me. Having played baseball at the collegiate level, I am very tuned to team culture. Within the workplace, I have experience working in challenging teamwork settings including a Title I school. I have an innate drive to be a selfless team member and set an example for others through my actions.

Extracurriculars

Athletics:

Luther College Varsity Baseball Team

2017 - 2020

- ARC All-Academic Team 2019
- Playing for three years on the baseball team at Luther allowed me to develop an ability to bring people together and generate focused excitement. I've learned that leadership happens in the small moments, like cheering on a teammate even when you're down 8 runs in the 9th. I have learned to not tolerate, but develop good relationships with bad teammates through leading by example.

Men's Amateur Baseball League of Southern Colorado 2022 - 2023

- Played competitive amateur baseball in the greater Colorado Springs area for the 2022 and 2023 seasons

Student Organizations:

Luther College PALS 2018 - 2021

PALS is a volunteer organization where Luther students are paired with kids in the community and they hang out and do fun activities once a month such as campus scavenger hunts, paper airplane crafting, or freeze tag (my PAL's favorite activity).

Luther College Hearing Board (Student Representative) 2019 - 2021

The Hearing Board is a collection of students, faculty, and staff at Luther College that hear cases involving violations of the student code of conduct. The Hearing Board considers all available evidence regarding the violation in question, determines culpability, and sanctions appropriately. The vast majority of these violations are serious, and many involve physical or sexual assault of some manner. Serving on the Board is not easy. It is difficult to hear of assaults within your community, let alone have to sift through the whole event in detail and then sanction your peers. But the reason I do it is because I care about the Luther community. It's not glamorous, and sometimes it makes it difficult to sleep, but I think I am well-suited for the task, and I am grateful that I can quietly serve my community in such an important way.

Vocation Inspired Peer Mentor (Student Mentor) 2019 - 2021

VIP Student Mentors are paired with another upperclassman student, a faculty member at Luther, a Luther alum, and a group of three to five freshmen students. Student Mentors attended weekly leadership meetings to discuss what it means to be a mentor for students starting college, our role as leaders, and strategies for leading group mentoring sessions.

Physics Department Tutor 2020 - 2021

Tutored once a week for an hour and a half over Zoom, and attended weekly prep meetings to practice tutoring skills with a Luther Physics faculty member. Tutoring in the physics department has taught me that I love to share my excitement of learning and physics with others. Working with someone so that they don't just get the right answer, but also understand the underlying concepts behind the problem is more than worth it when I get to see that moment when it all clicks.

Other:

Host of "Songs from a Hat with Ryan and Daniel" on KWLC Radio 2021

Hoasted, programmed, and produced a wildly popular music commentary radio show

Winner of the first annual Tron 3 7x7 1.75lbs Cheeseburger Eating Competition 2021

Unofficially sponsored by Steak 'n Shake
Finished with time of 9:57

Featured on the WBUR Podcast *Endless Thread* 2022

Episode: "Spam and monkeys: Why rule-breaking isn't always bad"
Featured for my community-building project completed at the end of my senior year at Luther College

Volunteer Experience

Walk to End Alzheimer's - Decorah, IA	2018 - 2020
Luther College PALS	2018 - 2021
Sigma Pi Sigma Congress Poster Judge	2022 - Current
TFA Office Tuesdays (Organizer)	2022 - 2023
D60 Elementary STEM Fair Judge	2023

Awards

ARC All-Academic Team	2019
Sigma Pi Sigma (Physics Honor Society)	2020
Phi Sigma Iota (Foreign Language Honor Society)	2021
Nominated for membership of "30" Club, Pueblo, CO	2023