Let's make an academic curriculum vitae!

CAREER DAY

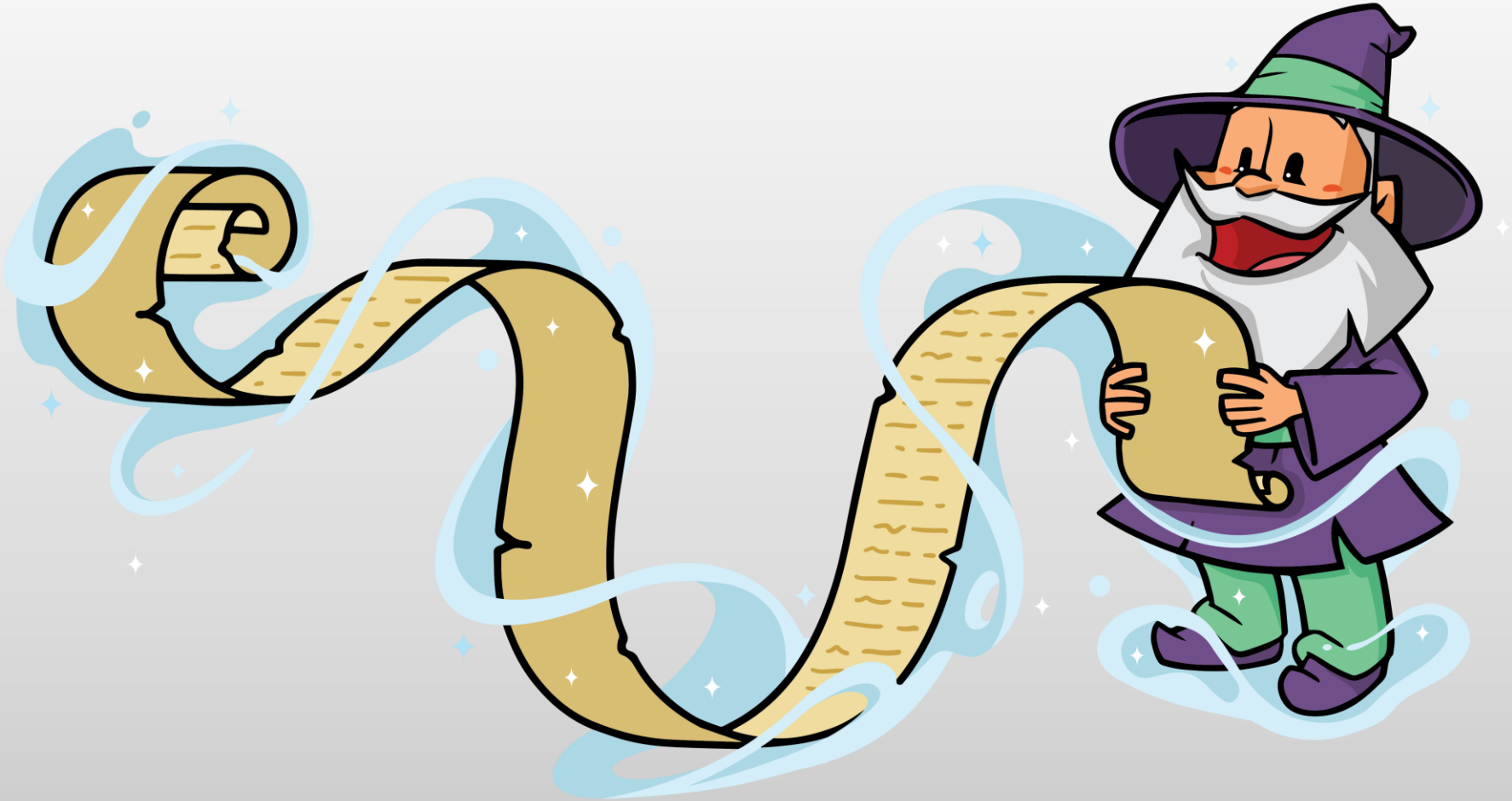
June 1, 2026

Erin Osborne Nishimura, Associate Professor, Biochemistry, Colorado State

Additional Online Resources

- Onishlab -> Events -> Career Day 2026
- https://onishlab.colostate.edu/career-day-2026/

What is a CV?



What is a CV?

- Stands for “Course of life”
- Documents your academic history and accomplishments

Taylor N. Medwig-Kinney, Ph.D.

Postdoctoral Research Fellow, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

tmkinney@unc.edu • tmedwigkinney.com

Education

2022	**Ph.D. in Genetics**, Stony Brook University, Stony Brook, NY
2016	**B.S. in Biology and Health Science**, Stony Brook University, Stony Brook, NY Concentrations: Developmental Genetics, Public Health, and Community Health Education

Research Training

2022 - present	**Postdoctoral Research Fellow**, Laboratory of Dr. Bob Goldstein University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Department of Biology, Chapel Hill, NC
2016 - 2022	**Graduate Research Fellow**, Laboratory of Dr. David Matus Stony Brook University, Department of Biochemistry and Cell Biology, Stony Brook, NY
2014 - 2016	**Research Assistant** World Trade Center Health Program, Stony Brook, NY
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2013	**Undergraduate Summer Research Fellow**, Laboratory of Dr. Nurit Ballas Stony Brook University, Department of Biochemistry and Cell Biology, Stony Brook, NY

Grants and Fellowships

Fellowships and research grants:

2024 - 2026	**Postdoctoral Fellowship Award**, American Cancer Society ($217,500)
2023 - 2025	**For Women in Science Fellowship**, L’Oréal USA; United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization; and American Association for the Advancement of Science ($60,000)
2024 - present	**Leading Edge Fellows Program**
2023	**Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award Individual Postdoctoral Fellowship**, National Institutes of Health *(declined)*
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Outreach, travel, and childcare grants:

2024	**Childcare and Dependent Grant**, Genetics Society of America ($250)
2023	**Career Advancement and Research Excellence Support Award**, Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology ($5,000)
2021 - 2022	**Women in STEM Leadership Grant**, Alan Alda Center for Communicating Science ($12,573)
2019	**Distinguished Travel Award**, Stony Brook University ($1,100)

Publications

Selected peer-reviewed publications: *co-first authorship, †corresponding authorship, mentees

1. Zhang P*, Medwig-Kinney TN*, Goldstein B† (2023). **Architecture of the cortical actomyosin network driving apical constriction in *C. elegans*.** *Journal of Cell Biology*. https://doi.org/10.1083/jcb.202302102
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How do CVs differ from resumés?

- It depends!
  - Europe and some fields – they are equivalent

- In the US, in academia:

Resumés

- 1 -2 pages
- Brief list of past positions, training, education, awards, and skills
- Sometimes with a pic
- Flashy formatting

CVs

- Very long
- Complete list of past positions, education, publications, speaking events, mentoring, teaching, awards, etc
- Boring formatting


Who is your audience?

Job Market

Fellowships

Applying for a Postdoc

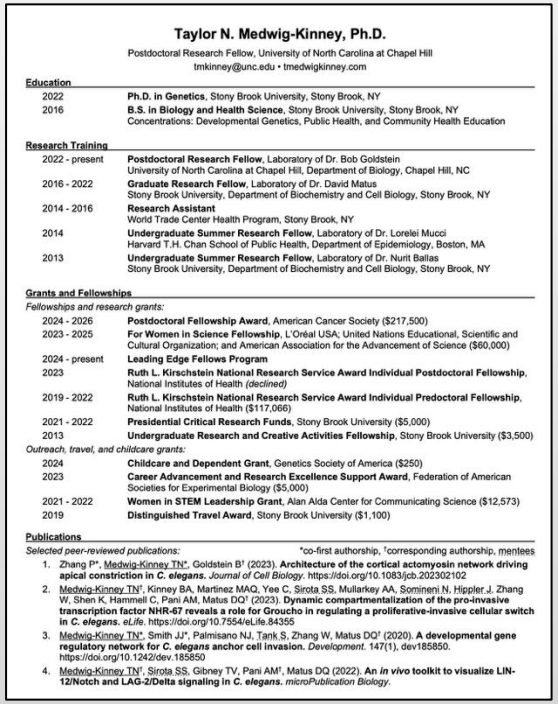
Awards

Annual Reporting

Updating your committee

But seriously, who is REALLY your audience?

Make a master CV first, then tailor new CVs for each purpose



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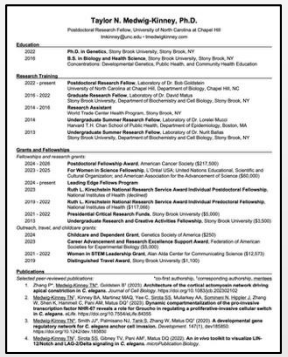
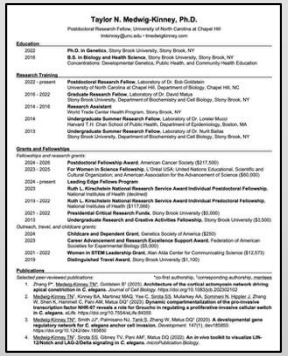
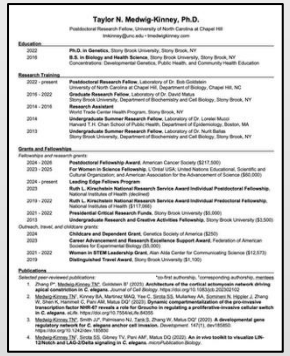
MASTER CV



Mentor Award

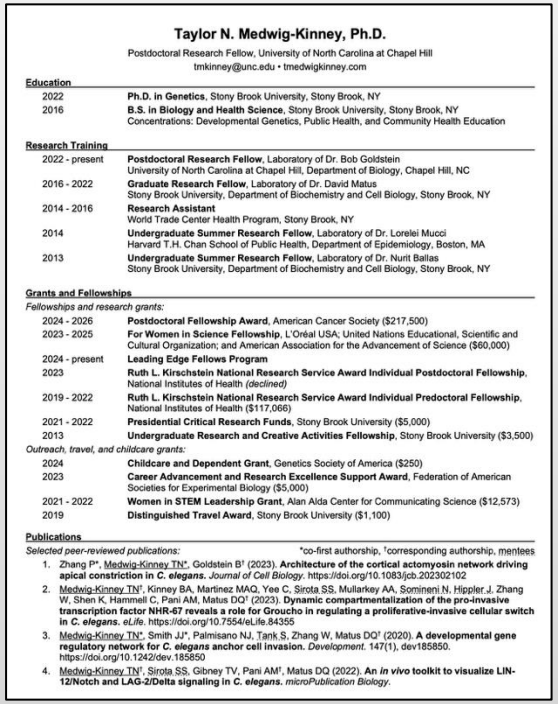


Last 8 years



4-pg limit

OR tailor new CVs for each job



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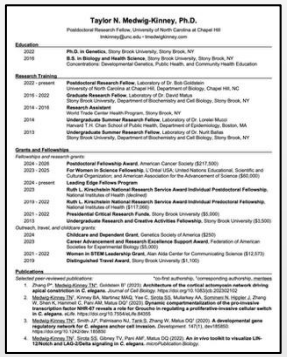
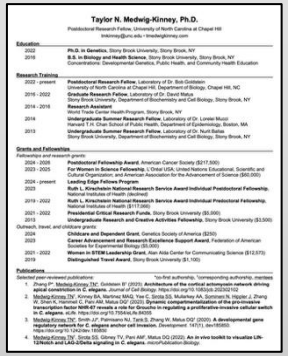
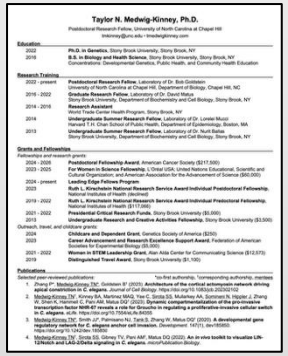
MASTER CV



Job #1



Job #2

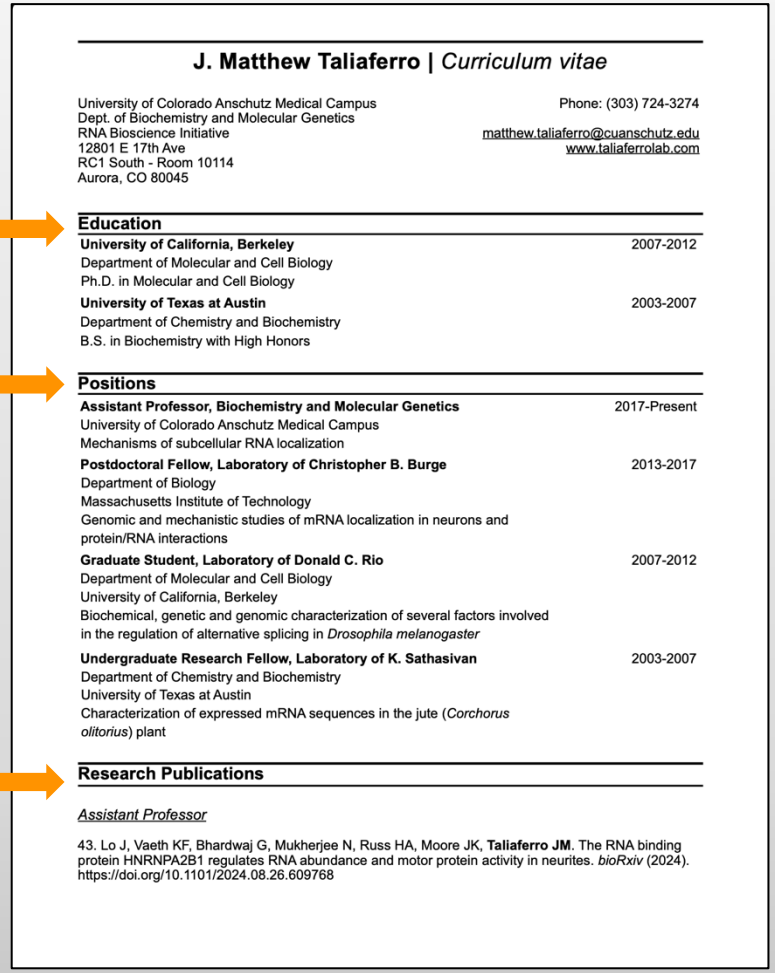


Job #3

Tip: Tailor the language in your CV to each job call!

Make a master CV - Key Categories

- NAME AND CONTACT INFO – TOP
- EDUCATION
- POSITIONS
- FUNDING
- HONORS AND AWARDS
- RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS
- PRESENTATIONS
- TEACHING
- MENTORSHIP
- TRAINING
- SERVICE
- OUTREACH



J. Matthew Taliaferro | *Curriculum vitae*

University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus
Dept. of Biochemistry and Molecular Genetics
RNA Bioscience Initiative
12801 E 17th Ave
RC1 South - Room 10114
Aurora, CO 80045

Phone: (303) 724-3274
matthew.taliaferro@cuanschutz.edu
www.taliaferrolab.com

Education

University of California, Berkeley 2007-2012
Department of Molecular and Cell Biology
Ph.D. in Molecular and Cell Biology

University of Texas at Austin 2003-2007
Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry
B.S. in Biochemistry with High Honors

Positions

Assistant Professor, Biochemistry and Molecular Genetics 2017-Present
University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus
Mechanisms of subcellular RNA localization

Postdoctoral Fellow, Laboratory of Christopher B. Burge 2013-2017
Department of Biology
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Genomic and mechanistic studies of mRNA localization in neurons and protein/RNA interactions

Graduate Student, Laboratory of Donald C. Rio 2007-2012
Department of Molecular and Cell Biology
University of California, Berkeley
Biochemical, genetic and genomic characterization of several factors involved in the regulation of alternative splicing in *Drosophila melanogaster*

Undergraduate Research Fellow, Laboratory of K. Sathasivan 2003-2007
Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry
University of Texas at Austin
Characterization of expressed mRNA sequences in the jute (*Corchorus olitorius*) plant

Research Publications

Assistant Professor

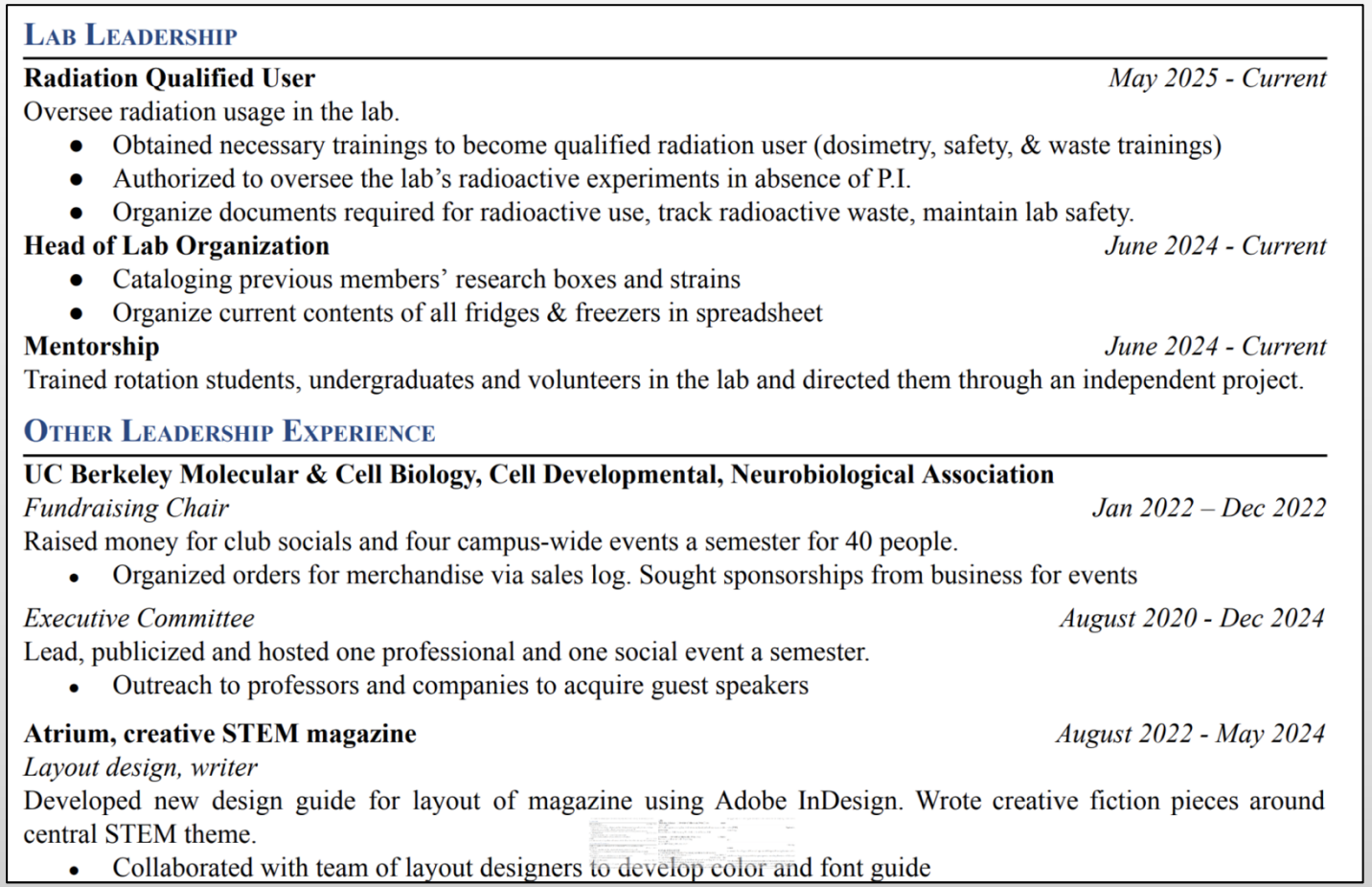
43. Lo J, Vaeth KF, Bhardwaj G, Mukherjee N, Russ HA, Moore JK, **Taliaferro JM**. The RNA binding protein HNRNPA2B1 regulates RNA abundance and motor protein activity in neurites. *bioRxiv* (2024). https://doi.org/10.1101/2024.08.26.609768

Nuts and Bolts - Tips

- List dates in **reverse chronological order** (most recent first)
- In **education**: list degree, major (and any minors), institution, location, graduation date, **mentor**
  - For the dissertation or thesis, it is ok to have a title and brief description
- List the **year** you received awards or did activities
- Use **action verbs** to describe your responsibilities, accomplishments, and skills
- State your **role** in groups (founder, organizer, member, etc)
- When listing **publications and presentations**, write them in standard bibliographic form and classify them by type (journal, conference, etc.)
- **Interim projects** – it is ok to list papers in press, in preparation, or bioRxiv preprints but please clearly label these as they are not peer reviewed

Focus on formatting

- No one will read it, but someone may **skim** it!
- Keep it consistent
- Use headings, tabs, and horizontal lines
- Use page breaks wisely
- Minimal color can be effective
- Overall, the vibe is “restraint”



Lab Leadership

Radiation Qualified User *May 2025 - Current*

Oversee radiation usage in the lab.

- Obtained necessary trainings to become qualified radiation user (dosimetry, safety, & waste trainings)
- Authorized to oversee the lab’s radioactive experiments in absence of P.I.
- Organize documents required for radioactive use, track radioactive waste, maintain lab safety.

Head of Lab Organization *June 2024 - Current*

- Cataloging previous members’ research boxes and strains
- Organize current contents of all fridges & freezers in spreadsheet

Mentorship *June 2024 - Current*

Trained rotation students, undergraduates and volunteers in the lab and directed them through an independent project.

Other Leadership Experience

UC Berkeley Molecular & Cell Biology, Cell Developmental, Neurobiological Association

Fundraising Chair *Jan 2022 – Dec 2022*

Raised money for club socials and four campus-wide events a semester for 40 people.

- Organized orders for merchandise via sales log. Sought sponsorships from business for events

Executive Committee *August 2020 - Dec 2024*

Lead, publicized and hosted one professional and one social event a semester.

- Outreach to professors and companies to acquire guest speakers

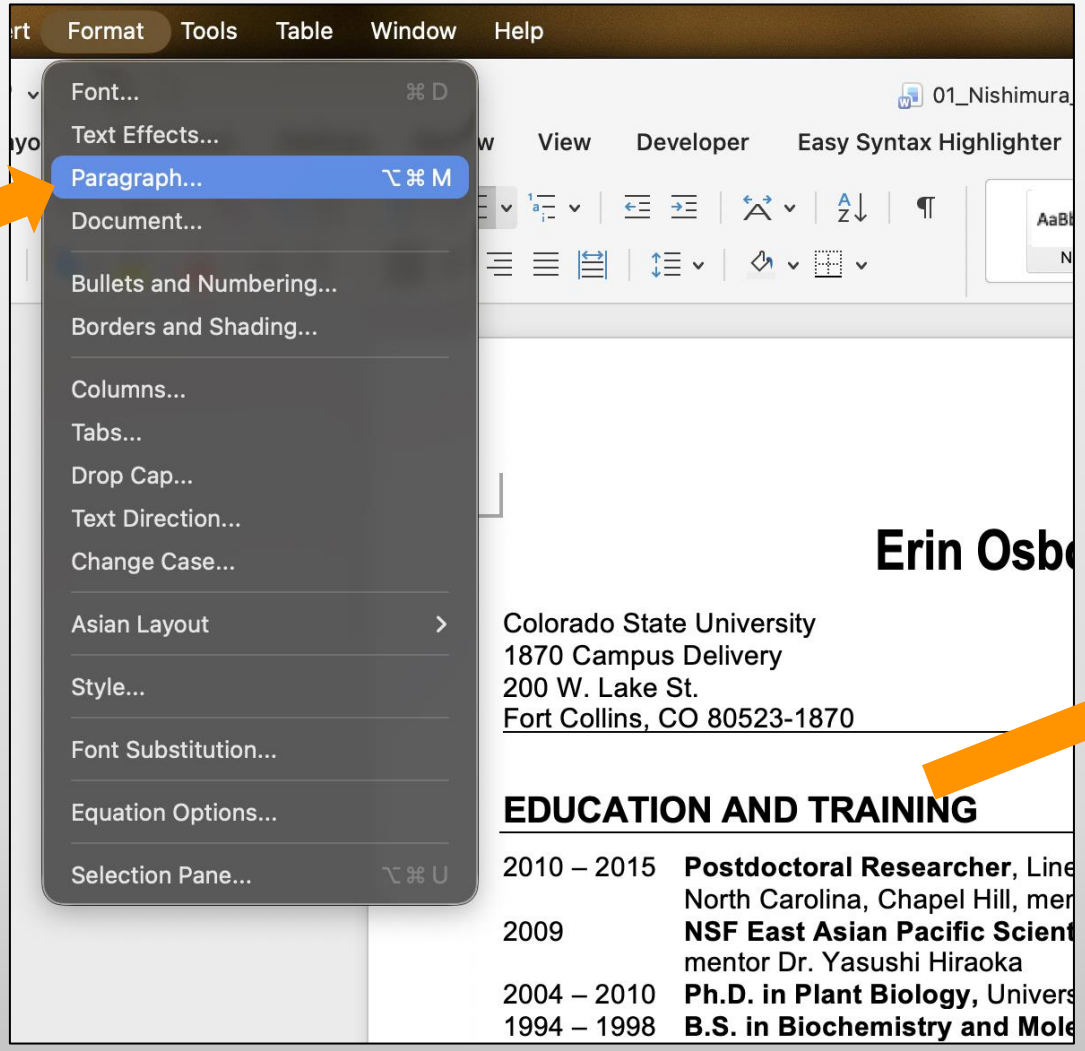
Atrium, creative STEM magazine *August 2022 - May 2024*

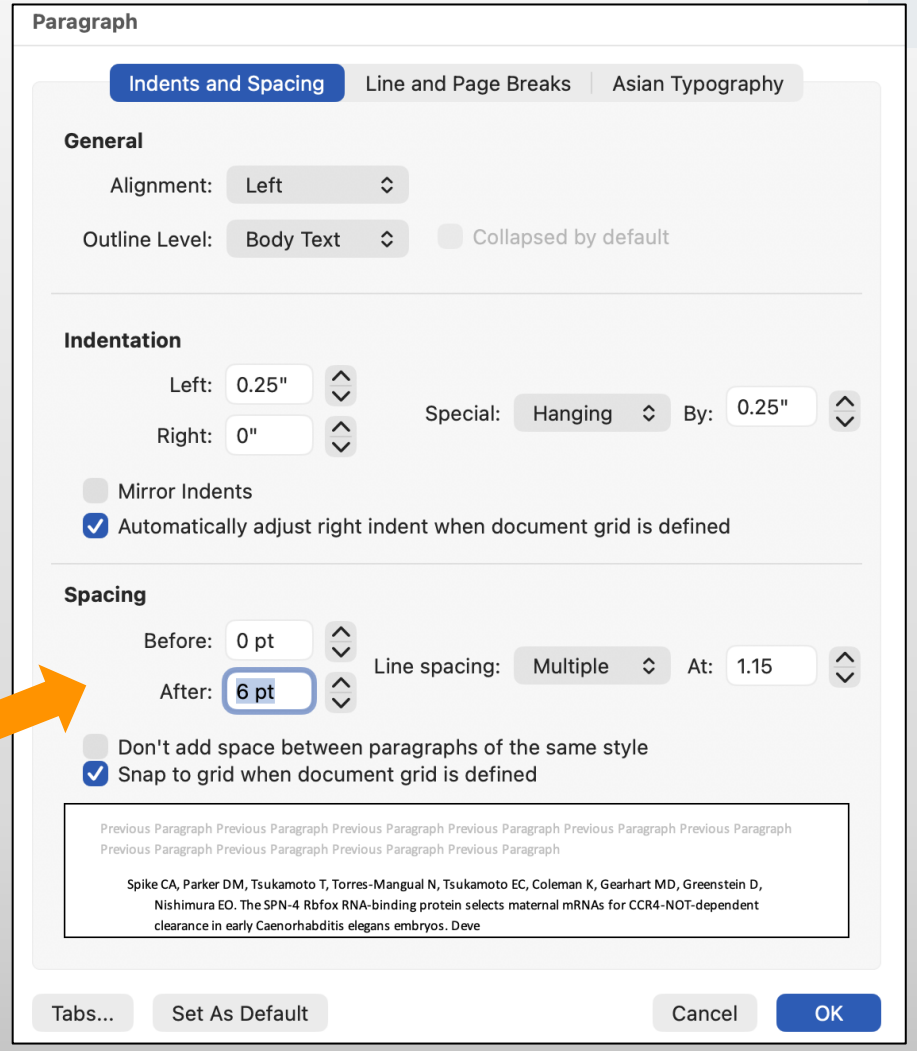
Layout design, writer

Developed new design guide for layout of magazine using Adobe InDesign. Wrote creative fiction pieces around central STEM theme.

- Collaborated with team of layout designers to develop color and font guide

Advanced Ninja Skills - formatting



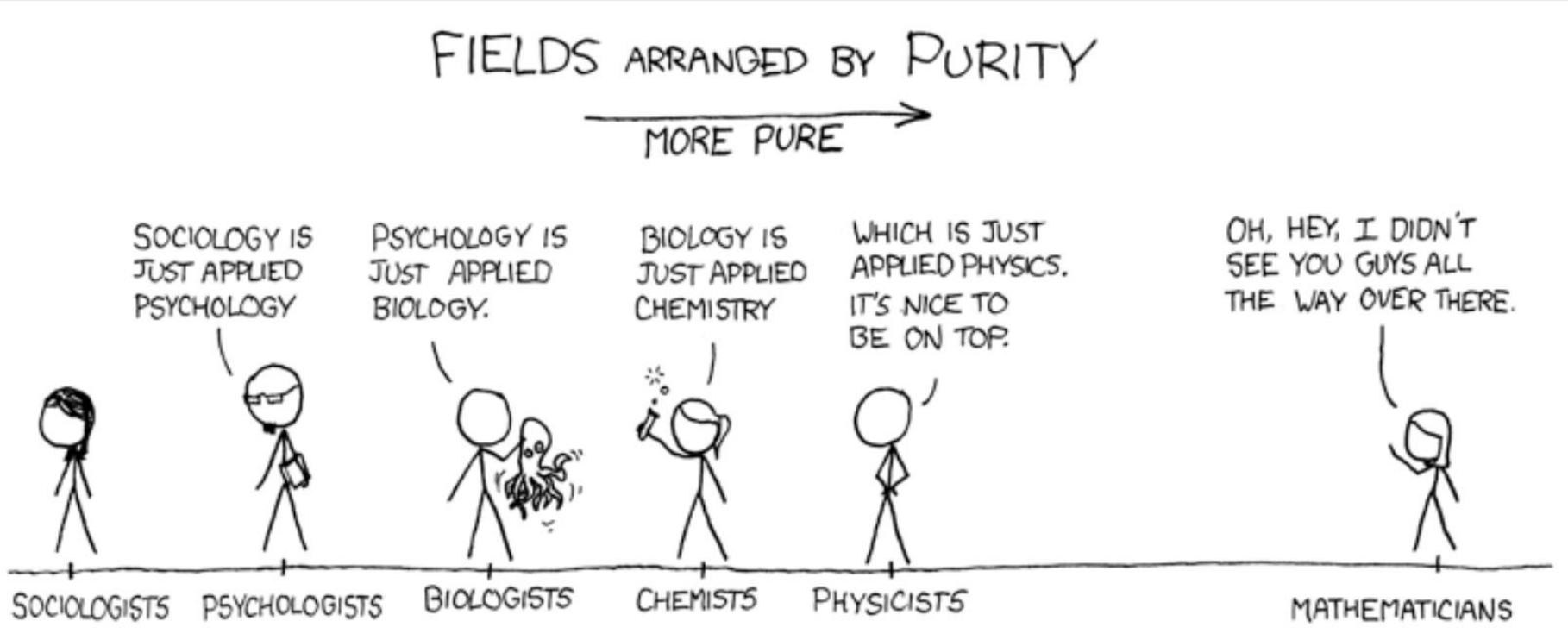


Attention to Detail – show it!

- Fix typos
- Keep grammar consistent
- Keep tabs/bullets consistent
- Keep punctuation consistent
- This is your chance to demonstrate your rigor!!!

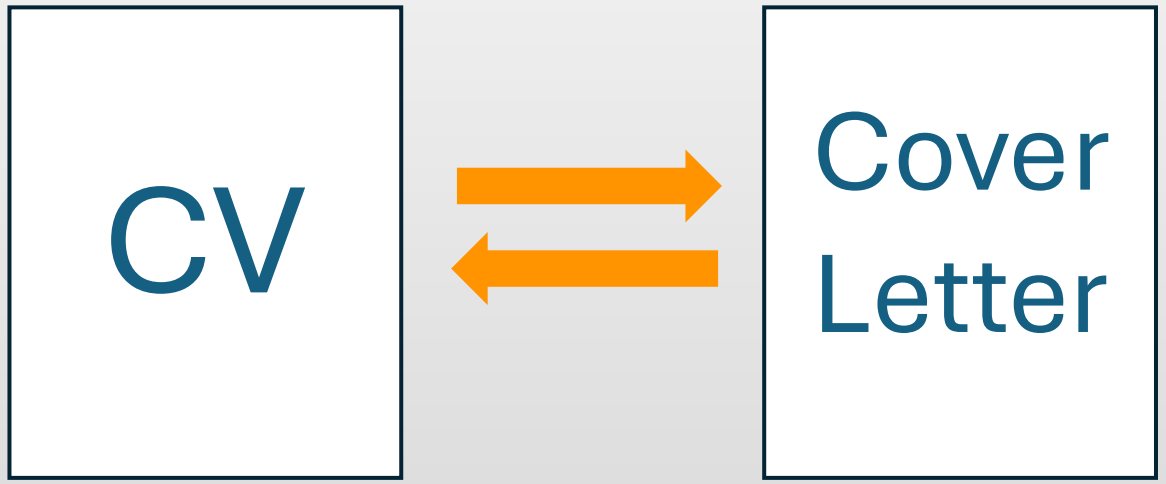
Every field is different – know your audience

- Each field and region has its own conventions and culture
- Will your reviewers be in your field? Out of it? Non-scientists?
- Use buzzwords and acronyms carefully



Don’t forget your cover letter!

- Be brief in the CV, then **expand and highlight** in the Cover Letter
- **Match** your CV and Cover Letter
  - Make sure roles, titles, and names are identical for easy matching
  - Match verbiage to the job call or award call
- Avoid: “This is why I want this job/award”
- Try: “This is how you will benefit from me having this job”
- Create a **story arc**



Major pitfall #1: Failing to show you are a scientist!

- Excellent PCR skills
- Molecular Biology skills
- I can make transgenic bacteria
- X-ray crystallography
- Proficient in Microsoft Office

- Thesis title: "The role of curved DNA in promoter recognition of *Bacillus subtilis* and *Escherichia coli* RNA polymerases"
  - Developed a novel GFP-based promoter recognition assay in *E. coli*. Discovered a key AT-rich torsional bend important for promoter recognition
  - Solved the co-structure of *B. subtilis* RNA polymerase on the *ATP14* promoter using X-ray crystallography. Demonstrated that an AT-rich torsional bend is further exacerbated by binding
  - Verified key contact points between AT-rich torsional bends and *B. subtilis* and *E. coli* RNA polymerases on different promoters and identified species-specific features
  - **NSF-GRFP-**supported work

Focus on research questions and accomplishments

If you do bullets – use your dissertation Aims

Bachelor's, Master's, PhD? Where should you be?

	What I'm looking for
Current Undergrad	someone seeking experience, someone focused on learning
Graduated B.S.	a wide diversity here, seeking a position, starting to specialize
Graduated Masters	focused field-specific skills and knowledge, ability to develop new protocols, ability to optimize protocols, high-throughput
PhD	leadership; communication, ability to drive a project; ability to gain new knowledge from experiments, networking, or reading; ability to think critically; ability to obtain funding

Competence & Initiative

Major pitfall #2: Failing to know or show your strengths

AWARDS

2025	Most Valuable Mentor - CMB
2025	I was nominated by my department, my state, and then I ultimately received a Goldwater Award
2023	Kewit Award – recipient - BMB

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

2026	Responsible Conduct of Research
2025	TILT Workshop #1
2024	TILT Workshop #2

AWARDS

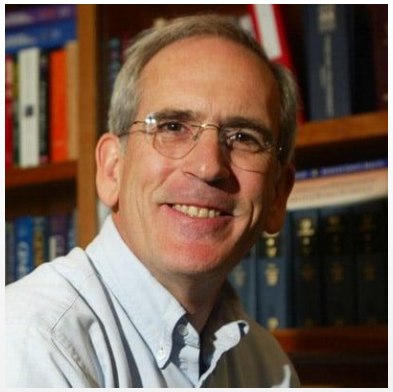
Most Valuable Mentor Award (CMB Prog.)	2025
Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship • *National recipient*	2025
Kewit Award – Biochemistry Dept.	2023

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Responsible Conduct of Research (NIH)	2026
Teacher Training (TILT) – Effective syllabi	2025
Teacher Training (TILT) – Fair rubrics	2024

Don’t bury key info

Jasper Rine's 3-steps to getting any postdoc position you want

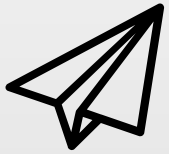


Step 1

The PI "tap"

T - 1.5 yr

PI mentions or e-mails



Step 2

The e-mail

T – 1 yr

e-mail with interest, CV, cover letter, pdfs of papers

Step 3

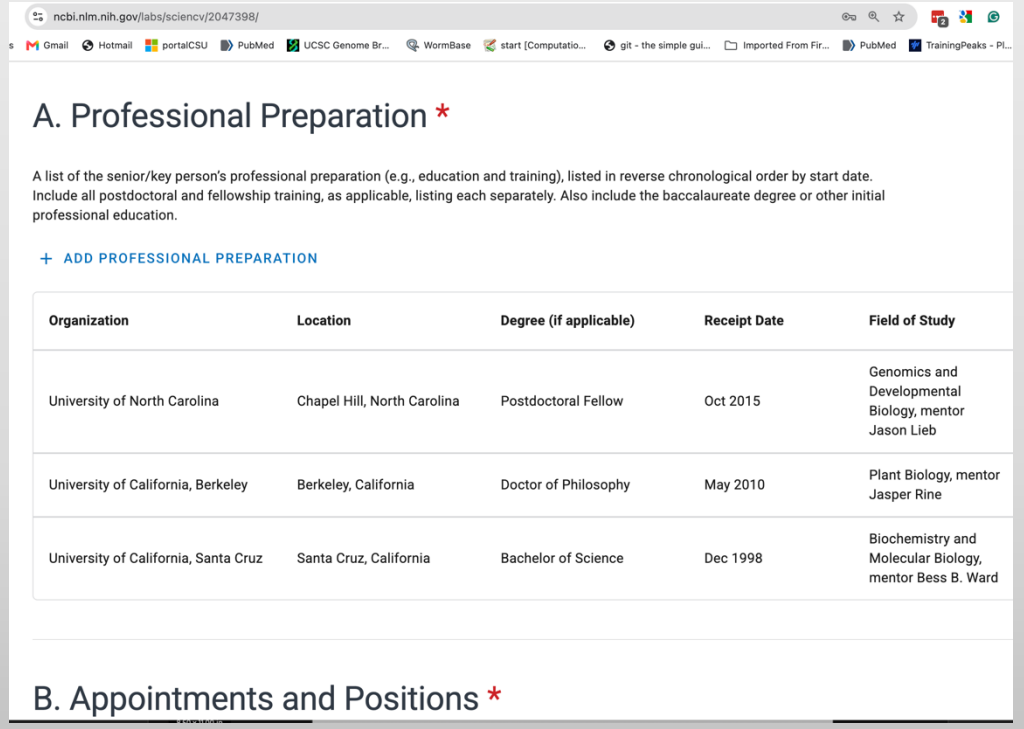
The follow up

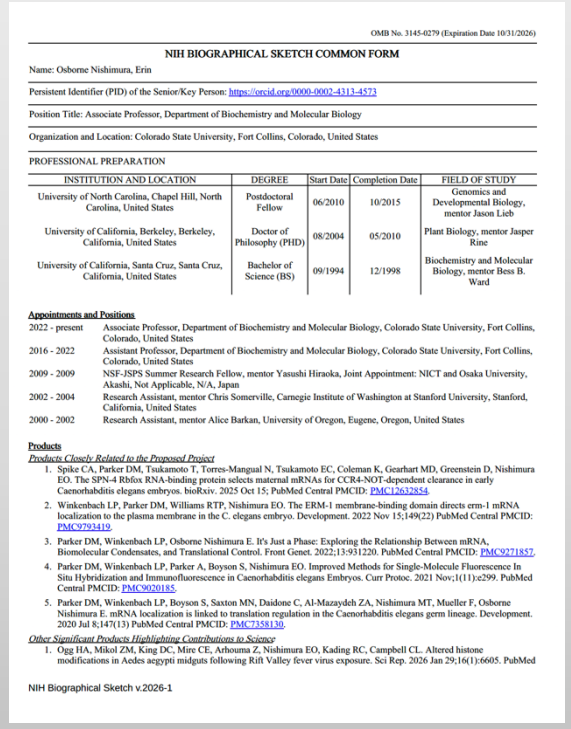
T – 8 mo

Reach out to a postdoc, Seek out at a meeting, Follow up with paper mail

Wait – what is a biosketch?

- https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/sciencv/
  - Fill out your information in pull-down-menu hell
  - Output your biosketch in NIH, NSF, or USDA format
- Warning – formats change continually. Double-check you are up-to-date





OMB No. 3145-0279 (Expiration Date 10/31/2026)

NIH BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH COMMON FORM

Name: Osborne Nishimura, Erin

Persistent Identifier (PID) of the Senior/Key Person: https://orcid.org/0000-0002-4313-4573

Position Title: Associate Professor, Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology

Organization and Location: Colorado State University, Fort Collins, Colorado, United States

PROFESSIONAL PREPARATION

INSTITUTION AND LOCATION	DEGREE	Start Date	Completion Date	FIELD OF STUDY
University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, North Carolina, United States	Postdoctoral Fellow	06/2010	10/2015	Genomics and Developmental Biology, mentor Jason Lieb
University of California, Berkeley, Berkeley, California, United States	Doctor of Philosophy (PHD)	08/2004	05/2010	Plant Biology, mentor Jasper Rine
University of California, Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz, California, United States	Bachelor of Science (BS)	09/1994	12/1998	Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, mentor Bess B. Ward

Appointments and Positions

2022 - present Associate Professor, Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, Colorado, United States
2016 - 2022 Assistant Professor, Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, Colorado, United States
2009 - 2009 NSF-JSPS Summer Research Fellow, mentor Yasushi Hiraoka, Joint Appointment: NICT and Osaka University, Akashi, Not Applicable, N/A, Japan
2002 - 2004 Research Assistant, mentor Chris Somerville, Carnegie Institute of Washington at Stanford University, Stanford, California, United States
2000 - 2002 Research Assistant, mentor Alice Barkan, University of Oregon, Eugene, Oregon, United States

Products

Products Closely Related to the Proposed Project

1. Spike CA, Parker DM, Tsukamoto T, Torres-Mangual N, Tsukamoto EC, Coleman K, Gearhart MD, Greenstein D, Nishimura EO. The SPN-4 Rbfox RNA-binding protein selects maternal mRNAs for CCR4-NOT-dependent clearance in early Caenorhabditis elegans embryos. bioRxiv. 2025 Oct 15; PubMed Central PMCID: PMC12632854.
2. Winkenbach LP, Parker DM, Williams RTP, Nishimura EO. The ERM-1 membrane-binding domain directs erm-1 mRNA localization to the plasma membrane in the C. elegans embryo. Development. 2022 Nov 15;149(22) PubMed Central PMCID: PMC9793419.
3. Parker DM, Winkenbach LP, Osborne Nishimura E. It's Just a Phase: Exploring the Relationship Between mRNA, Biomolecular Condensates, and Translational Control. Front Genet. 2022;13:931220. PubMed Central PMCID: PMC9271857.
4. Parker DM, Winkenbach LP, Parker A, Boyson S, Nishimura EO. Improved Methods for Single-Molecule Fluorescence In Situ Hybridization and Immunofluorescence in Caenorhabditis elegans Embryos. Curr Protoc. 2021 Nov;1(11):e299. PubMed Central PMCID: PMC9020185.
5. Parker DM, Winkenbach LP, Boyson S, Saxton MN, Daidone C, Al-Mazaydeh ZA, Nishimura MT, Mueller F, Osborne Nishimura E. mRNA localization is linked to translation regulation in the Caenorhabditis elegans germ lineage. Development. 2020 Jul 8;147(13) PubMed Central PMCID: PMC7358130.

Other Significant Products Highlighting Contributions to Science

1. Ogg HA, Mikol ZM, King DC, Mire CE, Arhouma Z, Nishimura EO, Kading RC, Campbell CL. Altered histone modifications in Aedes aegypti midguts following Rift Valley fever virus exposure. Sci Rep. 2026 Jan 29;16(1):6605. PubMed

NIH Biographical Sketch v.2026-1

CVs and feelings of inadequacy

- Highlight your strengths
- Give yourself permission to be you
- Cultivate a growth mindset
- Reframe “gaps” as “opportunities”
- Aim for the right fit

Think about whether you want to disclose personal information

- Service around
  - Race
  - LGBT+ status
  - Disability

- Diversity Work

Additional Resources & Links

Additional Resources for CVs

- Career Center – Colostate:
  - https://career.colostate.edu/creating-a-curriculum-vitae-cv/
- A guide to creating high quality curriculum vitae
  - https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC8678947/

Grit, Resilience, Resolve

- Angela Duckworth's Grit Ted Talk
  - https://youtu.be/H14bBuluwB8?si=Cd3zEXKpiHQPzC_9
- NIH Becoming a Resilient Scientist Workshop Series
  - https://www.training.nih.gov/wellbeing/join-webinars-and-lectures/brs/
- Be inspired by real-world people and their stories of triumph
  - Offline is better