

# Funding your STEM Graduate Education

Angello Astorga

# Biography

Born in Lima, Peru

Youngstown, Ohio is my hometown (~1 hour from cleveland)

Undergraduate: The Ohio State University

BS: Computer Science

Morrill Scholar

Two-time SROP participant

University of Iowa

Fundamental experience: basic understanding of research

Purdue University

Significantly benefited my career: edge of knowledge research

PhD Student

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Computer Science (Just finished my first year)

Advisor: Prof Tao Xie

Software Engineering

Automated test generation

# Funding

- Undergraduate

- Two-time Hispanic Scholarship Fund Scholarship
- Morrill Scholarship (Full-tuition)

- Graduate

- Generation Google Scholarship
- State Farm Companies Foundation Doctoral Fellowship
- GEM full fellow

# University of Iowa - Prof. Aaron Stump

## First Research Experience

2nd year in undergraduate

Taken only 2 courses in CS

## Heavily Theoretical Research

Case Study

Expectations

Exposure to research

Poster at the end of internship

## Mentor- Prof. Stump

Learn the research process and theoretical concepts

“Held my hand” - Not yet independent

Long-term relationship

Many letters of recommendation

Guidance through grad application process

# Purdue University - Prof. Xiangyu Zhang

## Edge of Knowledge Research

Compilers and Program analysis

No background

Expectations

Tool Development

Independent researcher

Technical Talk

## Advanced Research Career

Tool Development

Complex Software - Looks good on  
resume

Invaluable experience

Graduate School Implications

Current Advisor && Xiangyu Zhang

# Current - PhD

Software Engineering Research

2 projects

Conference submissions

Interning at Adobe Research

Interning at Microsoft Research

# Funding in Graduate school

Generation Google Scholarship

Letters:

Cyndi Freeman

Prof. Stump

Emphasis on Extracurricular

Leadership experience

Underrepresented student

Some technical focus

# Funding in Graduate school

State Farm Companies Foundation Doctoral  
Fellowship

Letters:

Prof. Tao Xie

Emphasis on letter

GEM Fellowship - Full Fellowship

Letters:

Prof. Xiangyu Zhang

Prof. Tao Xie

Paolo Bucci Ph.D (Lecturer)

Emphasis

Heavily Technical

Specific skills

Letters



# Things to consider

## Letters of Recommendation

Highly important

Reputation vs Quality

Context

When the experience occurred

What are you applying to

## Source of Funding Agency

National

Private

Technical-based

All-Around based

# Things to consider (cont.)

## Diverse Experiences

Social

Leadership

Internal Vice President of Social  
Fraternity( Alpha Psi  
Lambda)

## Service

Community Service Chair -  
Honorary Fraternity (Lambda  
Psi)

## Technical

Outside of the Classroom

Supercomputer Center

Research Experience

Android Development

# Contact Information

Angello Astorga

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