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**Dec. 5, 2017,**

**To whom it may concern:**

**This summer, some friends and I were trying to watch fireworks over Denver while a boisterous concert went on nearby at Red Rocks Park and Amphitheatre. A park ranger came by our lawn chair setup and chatted with us about how different acts at the venue tend to bring different problems for law enforcement. Country musicians tend to mean more fights, he said, rock bands attract marijuana users and electronic shows bring an influx of narcotics into the park. My curiosity as a journalist was immediately raised. And fortunately, attending the 2016 ProPublica Data Institute taught me how to seek out and analyze the data I needed to look into the ranger's claims and tell Denver readers about what type of Red Rocks shows were linked with the most arrests and citations.**

**The Scripps Howard/ProPublica Fellowship Program would equip me with even greater knowledge on how to seek out, report and distribute stories that people would not access otherwise. I hope you will consider me for the program, specifically for the investigative, data or engagement reporting tracks. It would be an honor to work on stories that matter while learning from journalists at Newsy, ProPublica and the Scripps News Washington Bureau. I have no doubt that the skills I gain through the program will be put to good use as I continue my career in journalism, pursuing stories that inform news audiences in innovative and engaging ways.**

**I have not been a professional journalist for long, but since graduating from the University in Colorado Boulder in 2014, I survived three rounds of layoffs, left a legacy newspaper to join an online-only news startup and consistently sought new opportunities to grow as a journalist. As you will see from my resume and clips, I have cut my teeth reporting in Colorado, providing breaking, business and data-driven news for print and digital outlets.**

When I joined the online-only news site Denverite.com in April 2016, the company did not yet have a name. This gave me the opportunity and challenge of shaping our coverage of transformative real estate developments, companies looking to locate in Denver and other business news. I feel proud of distinguishing our stories from those in the Denver Post, Denver Business Journal and other media outlets by focusing on neighborhoods and residents in the Denver area. I also take pride in working with my colleagues on data- and visualization-driven stories under the umbrella of our “Chart of the Week.” The aforementioned story about Red Rocks concerts was produced as a “Chart of the Week” story.

Before Denverite, I worked covering population growth in northern Colorado as the growth and data reporter for The Fort Collins Coloradoan. The pinnacle of my reporting there was a story on the amount of food stamp dollars issued due to human errors or computer shortcomings at the Colorado Department of Human Services. Beyond being an important story because the food stamp recipients were being forced to repay the money they received in error, the article shows how I grew from an intern looking for stories and covering breaking news to holding a spot on the enterprise team at the Coloradoan. Part of this growth meant learning how to find the people behind the numbers and ways to make larger stories timely. These are two skills that I know can be used during the Scripps Howard/ProPublica Fellowship Program.

As someone who comes from a family and background where people haven't always had the opportunity to pursue their passions, it's important for me to make it easier for people like myself to enter the field. Outside of work, I serve on the boards of the Colorado chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists and Denver Press Club. These organizations allow me to organize panels and trainings for reporters, select students for scholarships and promote journalism ethics.

I have no doubt that both my dedication to journalism and ability to face challenges would be put to good use if I am fortunate enough to be selected for the Scripps Howard/ProPublica Fellowship Program. I know the program will push me to the next level as a journalist in way few other opportunities available to me could. I am ready to be challenged by the instructors, hit the ground running and apply what I learn going forward. Of course, I cannot be sure where my career in the industry will take me, but I know what I gain through the program would be utilized every step of the way. I appreciate your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Adrian D. Garcia', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Adrian D. Garcia