Dear Dr. Gallagher:

I am writing to apply to Dow’s undergraduate R&D summer internship at the Collegeville branch. I became aware of this position via LinkedIn. Last summer, I toured this branch during Penn State’s Chemistry Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU). Having worked in an academic research laboratory, I now desire the opportunity to conduct research in industry. In this letter, I will explain how my research experiences have made me a fast and trainable learner, in addition to explaining my passion for outreach.

During my freshmen year, I worked with PEN films and was exposed to a variety of techniques for polymer manipulation, characterization and thermal analysis; however it was not until the REU that my interest in materials research solidified. During this time, I measured two ionomers using broadband dielectric spectroscopy and X-ray scattering techniques. Having never taken a class in dielectrics, polymer physics or polymer chemistry, I was excited to learn about these fields. Therefore, in addition to asking my mentors questions, I read many articles and books to thoroughly understand the measurements I was making. I now understand how to interpret the dielectric spectra of materials using Origin and Excel. When faced with confusing concepts or unfamiliar topics, I sought out literature and reached out to experts in the lab. I am trainable, curious and an eager learner. All of these traits will help me be a successful summer intern.

Dow’s STEM Ambassadors program aligns directly with my passion for outreach. I have been the outreach officer for Penn States’ Physics and Astronomy for Women program since 2015 and have also served as a physics learning assistant. These positions gave me valuable leadership experience. Between organizing events, managing volunteers and encouraging struggling students, I have never lost sight of my love for outreach. Therefore, I can only picture myself working at a company, such as Dow, where outreach and teaching is emphasized.

Thank you, and please feel free to contact me at either oclearday@gmail.com or 999-999-9999.

Sincerely,

Ona Clearday