

Julie Kalk

DØ , MS 357
Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory
Batavia, Illinois 60510
(630) 840-3383
jtorborg@fnal.gov

St. Cloud State University
Department of Physics, Astronomy and Engineering Science
Prof. John Harlander, search committee chair
St. Cloud State University, WSB 315
720 Fourth Avenue South
St. Cloud, Minnesota 56301-4498

Dear Chair:

With this letter I am pleased to announce my application for the position of Instructor/Assistant Professor of Physics as posted in the employment listings on SCSU's website. I am a postdoctoral reasearcher in the Elementary Particle Physics Group at Louisiana Tech University, having recently completed my thesis on the asymmetric rapidity distributions of charge-specified W bosons. My thesis research was carried out at Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory's DØ experiment, where I continue to work today. As a post-doc I am continuing my thesis research, as well as taking charge of the upgrade and operation of DØ 's Inter-cryostat Detector.

The switch from graduate student to post-doc was a larger change than I had expected. Because I was to be working on the same experiment and physics, I had expected little more than a change of office and salary. However, being a post-doc has put me in the position of mentoring students, specifically one for the detector work and one for the physics analysis, something that I have found enjoyable and educational.

Having grown up in central Minnesota and completed my undergraduate education at Hamline University in St. Paul, I am well-aware of SCSU's reputation as a community-based teaching college, and would be grateful for the opportunity to contribute to its goals of liberal arts and vocational education. I believeSCSU to be a university where the art and science of teaching is explored and valued. I would hope to find senior faculty I can learn from, but who are open to an evolving curriculum and pedagogy.

While I do not have a lot of classroom lecture experience, I am very experienced and at-ease with public speaking and have always felt I have a natural ability to connect with students. Since about half the DØ collaboration is international, I have extensive experience working with people of other culters. However, I am particularly interested in the participation of women in the physics department,and finding ways to get and keep them engaged. Much of my work to date has been with younger students, but I am very interested in developing programs at the college level. However, I think the most effective way to encourage women to study physics is to be a mentor, to be a visible sign that women can acheive success in the field.

I appreciate being considered for your faculty position. Please let me know if I can provide you with any additional information to support my application.

Sincerely,
Julie Kalk