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Director Dhenber C. Lusanta,
OIC
Ecological Farm and Resource Management Institute
Visayas State University
Visca, Baybay City, Leyte

Re: Application for Associate Professor IV Position

Dear Dir. Lusanta

I am writing to apply for the position of Associate Professor IV as advertised on the Visayas State University's website. I am based in Saskatchewan, Canada and currently working in the agricultural industry after more than 10 years of academic and research work both in the Philippines and Canada.

I currently own and operate Vertfarms YXE, one of the very few urban farms in Canada that is certified organic. I have always wanted to be involved in the agricultural production industry and I am very grateful that I am able to provide for my community year-round, considering being situated in a metropolitan city and with a weather allowing less than half a year of growing season. Furthering my knowledge and experience in the process of obtaining and maintaining organic certification, I also undergone training and certification in Good Agricultural and Collection Practices (GACP) and MarketSafe.

My exposure to agriculture started early, being born and raised in Baybay, Leyte. I went to the Visca Laboratory High School, now VSUIHS, for my secondary education and graduated as class valedictorian. I then proceeded to take a bachelor's degree in Agricultural Engineering from VSU and graduated cum laude. Within the same year of graduation, I took the licensure exam for agricultural engineers and garnered top 7th among all passers. As you know, being an alumnus of VSU, exposure to agricultural education, training, research and extension in VSU is top notched.

Early in my working career, while working as a researcher at the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), I had the opportunity to be involved in various research projects and learned collaborative work between scientists and researchers of varied disciplines. I had the opportunity to conduct site visits and engage in consultations with research collaborators and farmers. Along

with trainings, such as the use of statistical software, I learned the significance of peer reviewed work and how they are formulated and accomplished. This was furthered as I pursued my post graduate studies at the University of Saskatchewan (UoS) in Canada. I was able to advance my writing skills and produce technical reports, peer reviewed papers and conference proceedings. A list of my publications and conference presentations is included in my CV attached to this application. Through this academic advancement, I completed my Master's degree in Environmental Engineering and PhD in Chemical Engineering, both, at the UoS.

Given my academic training, it excites me to spend time on research and development on various aspects of indoor growing systems especially on automation and controls and growing structures. I previously led an engineering and design team at Farmboys Design Corp in building a fully automated modular indoor growing system that was able to grow different crops including herbs, microgreens, leafy greens and edible flowers in an environment exposed to extreme weather with temperatures ranging from -40 C to 35 C. One of our trials, in collaboration with experts from the College of Engineering at UoS, was the application of artificial intelligence in the prediction of crop yield which led to a paper published in an international conference proceeding. A link to this paper is also shown in my CV.

With my academic and research experience, together with my years in the industry, I am fully confident that I would be able to provide meaningful and substantial contributions in furthering your pursuit of academic excellence, innovative research and impactful extension work.

For more detailed information on my professional and academic work, I have attached my CV to this application for your review, including scanned copies of my diplomas and some relevant training certificates.

Thank you for your time and consideration and I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,

Lyman Moreno