KIRSTEN HUGHES

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SUMMARY OF QUALIFICATIONS

- Backend engineer who likes small, well-tested services and clear runbooks.
- Experience across 3 employers, most recently as Senior Backend Engineer at Brightwave Systems.
- Comfortable owning a service end to end: design, build, deploy and on-call.
- Known for clear communication with colleagues and for following work through to the end.

EDUCATION

DePaul University — **Chicago, IL**
BSc Computer Science — *2015*

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Brightwave Systems — **Austin, TX**
Senior Backend Engineer — *May 2024 – Present*

- Mentored two junior engineers through their first production releases.
- Automated database migrations in CI so releases no longer needed a maintenance window.
- Built an internal CLI that cut new-engineer setup from a day to an hour.
- Reviewed pull requests daily and kept the team style guide up to date.

Fennel Pay — **Austin, TX**
Backend Engineer — *Nov 2021 – Feb 2024*

- Wrote integration tests and contract tests; raised coverage on the core service from 41% to 78%.
- Led the move of three services from a shared monolith into independently deployed services.
- Worked with product managers to break large features into weekly releases.
- Built a feature-flag system so risky changes could be switched off without a deploy.

Kestrel Cloud — **Austin, TX**
Backend Developer — *Jan 2019 – Aug 2021*

- Cut p95 response time on the checkout service from 900 ms to 240 ms by reworking queries and caching.
- Built and maintained REST APIs used by 19 internal teams and two mobile apps.
- Wrote the design doc for the new search service and ran the review with three teams.

PROJECTS

Open-source rate limiter library (side project)

- Planned and delivered it alongside day-to-day work, with a written plan and agreed success measures.
- Shared the results with the wider team and kept the documentation up to date.

Hackathon: real-time bus tracker

- Planned and delivered it alongside day-to-day work, with a written plan and agreed success measures.
- Shared the results with the wider team and kept the documentation up to date.

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Languages & tools: Neon Postgres, Javva
General: Git, Docker, Linux, REST APIs, CI/CD
Languages: English (Fluent)

CERTIFICATIONS

- AWS Certified Cloud Practitioner
- Scrum Fundamentals

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

- Treasurer of a local sports club, keeping the accounts and membership list.
- Member of a community choir.

REFERENCE

Diego Wright
HR Director, Fennel Pay
Contact: diego@example.com