

Diversity Statement

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Structural barriers based on race, gender, sexual orientation, and socio-economic backgrounds often disadvantages minority groups by limiting access to opportunities. I have always strived to identify and negate such barriers, and I firmly believe that every person has something to offer to society at large through their unique identity. It is our collective responsibility to cultivate a diverse, inclusive and vibrant community, and ensure that each person achieves his or her full potential by providing a safe space to express their creativity and explore unique ideas.

As a faculty member, I plan to push for diversity and inclusion at my future institution. I will actively attempt to create a diverse research group, giving every student an equal opportunity and a safe space to conduct meaningful research. I will encourage students in my research group and my classes to voice any concerns they may have, and I will take appropriate measures to ensure that the students feel safe, secure and supported. I believe that conscious and unconscious biases are detrimental to an inclusive environment, and it is imperative that we train ourselves to identify and correct for these. Finally, I will actively promote diversity and inclusion in professional organizations that I am a part of, by encouraging and pushing for diverse representation on panels and committees, and by promoting awareness around inappropriate conduct and discrimination of any kind.

I have been fortunate to be part of institutions like UIUC and IIT Bombay that put significant effort into promoting diversity and equality for all. I have also had the opportunity to get exposure to these issues of diversity and inclusivity early in my technical career, through the in-country seminar conducted by the Cargill Global Scholarship Foundation in Delhi. The seminar taught me about personality types and how being a good leader means acknowledging your own traits, while also taking into account the behaviours and tendencies of people around you to create an inclusive and safe space as a leader. I have carried these learnings along with me throughout my career thus far, and I hope to make bigger strides towards this vision going forward.

To conclude, I strongly believe that diversity is a key enabler for the advancement of science, and will ensure that our innovations have a broader impact. It is an unfortunate reality of the world that there exist so many barriers today that limit the confluence of diverse ideas, and in turn, true innovation. Impactful breakthroughs throughout the world are possible when different people come together to combine their diverse thought processes and differing viewpoints. I am sincerely committed towards this vision, and will continuously strive to enable a diverse and inclusive society for all.