

Diversity Statement

I owe a great deal to those who believe that education should not be limited by socioeconomic status, race, or ability. Across my two decades in the public education system, I have been fortunate to have amazing teachers and mentors who made my success a priority. This has instilled a strong commitment to civic duty and giving back to the community. I volunteer several hours a week by hosting workshops and giving presentations about STEM to underrepresented communities. As the child of immigrants and growing up in a low-income community, I had never felt underrepresented until I started STEM in university. I am passionate about STEM because I know first-hand how empowering it can be and the strong sense of community it instills. I hold various leadership positions to promote diversity, equity, and inclusion and to expand access and opportunities for undergraduate research.

For four years, I have mentored at the Maximizing Engineering Potential Center (MEP) at my university. I help freshmen and transfer students adjust to university and pursue a career in STEM. I conduct resume reviews, mock interviews, tutoring, and application help for underrepresented students like myself. This commitment to their personal and professional development has led to increased graduation rates, which has gradually grown our respective communities in engineering. This has inspired me to become an educator, so I can use my skills and interests to make STEM accessible to everyone.

As founder and President of the Association of Energy Engineers (AEE), I have educated my campus community about the energy industry and how research actively fuels its progress. I organized and invited several industry speakers to our campus to share their experience and educate our campus on the energy industry. I have also created several research projects through this organization, so that students have a seamless pathway into research regardless of their background or expertise.

After observing that minority communities were hit the hardest by quarantine, I sought to help make education more accessible. At the UCSD Hackathon, I led a diverse team of engineers, technologists, and business students to tackle the challenge of making education more accessible. We created Corssary, an open-source course glossary, that automatically parses through articulation agreements published by universities to provide a seamless interface for students to find community college courses that satisfy general education requirements. It enables students to find more online classes, thus allowing for enrollment to community colleges previously outside of their geographical range. This award-winning and open-source effort has been submitted to the Department of Education for funding and expansion into other community college systems.

In summary, I intend to undertake rigorous academic study while sharing the excitement of discovery in a diverse campus community. I attest that through the experiences of others and the diversity of interests, strengths, and views, we can create an enriching environment for all.