

STATEMENT OF DIVERSITY CONTRIBUTION

I believe that a good education should not only prepare students to become economically independent but also enable them to appreciate their cultural values while respecting the diversity of others. Born and raised in a dense urban city of Danang in Vietnam, I was in a cultural shock when coming to the U.S. to live with a host family in a small farming town of Oregon, Illinois while attending a local high school. Being one of a few Asian students at the school, I knew that I was different, and thus, I compensated by being open to unique perspectives. While going to college, I lived the International House where my roommates and neighbors were from all over the world. Taking part of the International Club, I worked hard to learn other cultures as well as introducing them to Vietnamese customs and dishes.

In the Classroom To support underrepresented groups, I emphasize pedagogical approaches on teamwork, project-based and collaborative learning. To raise awareness of diversity in CS, I encourage students to work together to produce tech-talk videos to share their point of view with classmates. As a result, some students groups have produced videos such as She++ and #educateCS and stimulated much attention within the course. Serving on the Prospect for Success Implementation Committee at UNC Charlotte, I have taught the Culture TREK Connection Activities to over 300 CS first-year students. With the help of a diverse team of teaching assistants, I have coordinated the Chain of Diversity activity to raise cultural awareness among CS students among 14 lab sections.

At the University I have taken an active role in building retention and outreach programs targeting students from underrepresented groups. When a group of female students needs a faculty advisor to reactivate their ACM-Women Chapter, I have volunteered to be their interim-advisor. Serving on the Women in Computing (WiC) taskforce at UNC Charlotte, I have organized Minor Day every semester to attract more students who would not traditionally have considered CS. I have also served as chairperson for the scholarship committee to award a total of \$100,000 annually in 40 scholarships dedicated to the underrepresented population. Furthermore, I have worked to support diverse staffs as 6 out of 10 student tutors whom I supervised are from an underrepresented group.

In the Community This commitment to diversity has also shaped my involvement with the community. As I write the proposal for the Dean's Ambassadors Program, I have intended to promote an environment where diversity is welcomed, fostered, and celebrated. The student ambassadors work with the mobile MakerSpace to outreach students from low-income, high-minority schools, to help ignite their curiosity in CS. While attending the National Center for Women and Information Technology (NCWIT) conference, I have learned much about embracing diversity by incorporating their program-in-a-box into my student community. Concerns about diversity, equity and inclusion have also shaped to my research agenda. Recently, my research on fostering a deeper sense of belonging in female CS students has been accepted as a poster presentation at the ACM Technical Symposium on Computing Science Education (SIGCSE).

I am able to communicate effectively with people from all walks of life because I appreciate, embrace, and support diversity. I would be glad to contribute to existing programs on the campus while creating new initiatives on diversity. Also, I want to serve as a mentor to underrepresented groups to prepare students to uphold the ethical principles of a thriving and inclusive society. I hope to continue my effort toward improving multicultural awareness and the quality of education for minority and international students and helping American students understand how to work in international settings.