**CONTRIBUTIONS TO DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION**

As an instructor and mentor, I always view students as holistic beings with lives outside academia. I believe this openness to hearing a student’s needs is the first, crucial step in providing an inclusive, safe, and supportive environment. If, at any point, I learn of ways I can make my classroom a more equitable learning environment for all students, I make any necessary adjustments with all due haste. While teaching at the University of Texas at San Antonio, I have witnessed how a diverse group of students can contribute invaluable perspectives to the class, when every student can feel confident to use their voice. Though challenging, my experiences teaching classes with a range of student backgrounds have taught me how to be flexible, and how to educate all members of my class equally. Seeing the confidence shift in my students is the strongest evidence I could have that an inclusive environment makes a difference.

Equity in research has been and will continue to be, extremely important to me. My dissertation research is being implemented in both San Antonio and Laredo, TX, to provide intervention opportunities to Latina breast cancer survivors, particularly those living in underserved communities. As many of the members of the Laredo community do not have running water, it was crucial to our team that actions be taken to ensure they are provided with an accessible, responsive intervention. Despite the added difficulties of including a satellite location in a pilot study, it was imperative to our team that our convenience did not override survivors’ needs. I intend to implement this survivor-first approach throughout my future research and incorporate consideration for participants with the highest need into the design, location, language selection, and recruitment methods. It is important to remember that research is *for* participants, not *about* participants, and being mindful of inclusivity in the design is a crucial component for ensuring the research is helping the participants who need it most.