

## Diversity Statement

As an educator, I am deeply committed to fostering diversity in education and creating an inclusive and supportive learning environment. I understand the unique challenges that students from diverse backgrounds, including LGBTQ+ individuals, first-generation students, and people from different cultural backgrounds, may face while navigating the educational landscape.

My personal experiences as a Bi first-generation Mexican American female (Chicana) that grew up with a learning disability have given me valuable insights into the importance of celebrating diversity in the classroom. I believe that embracing and honoring each student's unique voice and experiences not only enriches the learning environment but also empowers students to thrive academically and personally. In the field of GIS within the broader context of IS&T, I see a powerful opportunity to promote diversity and inclusion. By acknowledging the diverse perspectives and knowledge that students from various backgrounds bring to the table, we can create a more comprehensive and nuanced understanding of geographical information and technology.

I want all my students to feel safe, valued, and respected as we explore GIS and IS&T together. It is essential to me that each student's contributions are recognized and appreciated, regardless of their background or identity. As we delve into spatial analysis, mapping, and data visualization, I encourage open discussions where students can share their unique insights and learn from one another. Moreover, I am committed to continuously evolving as an educator and creating a classroom experience that meets the needs of all students. Your feedback is not only welcome but highly encouraged, as it helps shape our learning journey and ensures that we maintain an environment where diversity is celebrated.

We can unlock a wealth of knowledge, perspectives, and talents by promoting diversity in education. I see my role as an advocate for students, supporting their growth and success throughout their educational journey. Together, I would like to build a GIS and IS&T learning environment that fosters inclusivity, understanding, and appreciation for the diversity that enriches our lives and the field of geography and technology.