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Diversity Statement

Diversity can be defined in many ways. Here are three brief descriptions: respect for various cultures, awareness of different ethnic identities, and tolerance of individuals from different backgrounds. To me diversity is not a definition to be taught and memorized but instead an experience. It is via the communicative efforts that one puts forth when interacting with people with backgrounds and beliefs different than one's own that the meaning of diversity becomes apparent. This process at first may not seem pleasant. It requires patience, understanding, empathy, listening, and most importantly dilution of one's ego. When working together towards a common goal a diverse group of people will most likely not share the same view on how to solve a problem. Many will view this as a hindrance but in actuality it is the variety of viewpoints that can catalyze the discovery of a novel solution. Immersing oneself in a diverse environment outside of one's comfort zone is a great way to experience the meaning of diversity. Instead of tolerating people from different backgrounds one will welcome them and look forward to the interaction. In my experiences with diverse people I have learned much about collaboration, about other people, and about myself. All while having a great time doing it. Following are some of the projects that I have been involved with.

Women in Science and Engineering (WiSE)

Attendee 2015

University of California, Santa Cruz

Open and safe space where group members meet weekly in order to critically read and discuss articles and topics pertaining to issues faced by women and minorities in STEM fields. Although I was usually the only male in attendance I felt welcome and always left feeling more enlightened.

Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage Month Committee

Events Planning Committee Member 2015

University of California, Santa Cruz

Student organization tasked with planning the various activities to be held during the AAPI Heritage Month. This included developing the entertainment programs, procuring guest speakers, catering, budgeting, fund raising, volunteer recruitment, and public relations. The purpose of the events was to share the culture of AAPI students with the greater university community in order to foster cultural awareness and friendships.

Undergraduate Research Science Association (URSA)

Speaker Series Coordinator 2014

University of California, Santa Cruz

Student organization designed to help educate undergraduate students about graduate school and how to become involved in research. I facilitated guest lectures and presentations in topics ranging from researching graduate programs to basic web design.

Japanese Student Association (JSA)

Attendee 2014

University of California, Santa Cruz

Student organization that provided a venue for Japanese students as well as any student interested in Japan and the Japanese language to come together and experience Japanese culture. Activities centered around developing bonds between members by making full use of common interests.

OLA Commencement

Student Guest Speaker 2011

Foothill College

I was chosen as a graduating student to speak at commencement about my experiences, challenges, and achievements. This was a great opportunity for me to encourage others to succeed.

International Student Connection (ISC)

Member 2011

Foothill College

Student organization providing fun activities in order to help international students form friendships, bond, learn about each other, and feel welcome.

Spanish Languages and Spanish Cultures Club

President 2011

Foothill College

Founded the club in order to provide an inclusive space in which members from various backgrounds who identified with a Spanish culture or a Spanish language could come together. Initiatives were the fostering of camaraderie between the various Spanish speaking communities and inclusively educating the greater college community about the diversity in Spanish languages and Spanish cultures.

Latino Heritage Month (LHM) Committee

Community Liaison 2011

Foothill College

Helped plan events that would take place on campus during Latino Heritage Month. Helped organize guest speaker events. Helped facilitate educational focus groups.

International Night Committee

Event Planning Committee Member 2011

Foothill College

Largest student led event held at Foothill College. This is a yearly event showcasing the vast diversity of cultures present in the college. The event takes the form of an evening gala. The entertainment lineup includes a fashion show, musical numbers, individual performances, and group performances. There is also an outdoor banquet. The event is well received by the community and the members form strong bonds and some wonderful memories.

English as a Second Language (ESL) Club

Organization Board of Directors (OBD) Representative 2011

Foothill College

Represented the ESL Club at all formal OBD meetings. Took minutes and related back to ESL Club senior officers pertinent information from meetings. Made formal funding requests and updated board members about ESL Club planned events, budgets, and collaborations. I learned much in this position about how to successfully collaborate between large groups towards a common goal even when individual group agendas may slightly differ.

Vietnamese Culture Committee

Event Planning Committee Member 2011

Foothill College

Helped coordinate a fun educational one day event. The purpose was to inform the college community about some interesting and little known facts about Vietnam and measure interest. The event was a success and enough interest was gained that a dedicated club was formed.