

Diversity statement

Ling Tong

I do not have any work experience directly related to diversity or inclusion. I also have not received special training on diversity issues. However, I've been and I will be comfortable working in a diverse environment. The school in my doctoral study had folks of all backgrounds. I've always been appreciating the opportunity to work and study in a diverse place. Sometimes, I must admit, I'm more comfortable with colleagues and students from similar backgrounds, but I think the diversity of thinking problems, especially from different perspectives, is a significant advantage. When we have complex problems at work, the more kinds of people we have, the more kinds of solutions we can come up with. We may end up with a much better outcome in teaching and research.

In my previous experiences, I collaborated with other colleagues to host an initiative. It left me with a deep impression of the importance of diversity in a university. The meeting is called the Techealth Initiative. The initiative's organizers included me, two graduate students, and three professors. We are from diverse backgrounds. Noelle Chesley, the associate professor of sociology, took particular care about food options, special accommodations, and accessible event venues. Honestly, I would not have paid special attention to these details without her reminding. Obviously, I need to keep in mind that diversity is not an idea but more like an action in every day of my future career. Access to equal rights for everyone enjoying courses, conferences, and other work events should be of the highest priority.

In addition, part of my research is related to addressing the equity of healthcare. My previous study shows that the adoption of healthcare is much lower among people of low income, low education attainment, and people who live in rural areas. I've contributed my knowledge to the healthcare industry by highlighting equity issues. We suggested policy changes in order to achieve greater equity in healthcare. Achieving fair healthcare for everyone is difficult. However, that is exactly what an outstanding research project needs to do. I'm fortunate to have the motivation to make a difference for greater healthcare equality. I value this goal and will continue working on this study plan to benefit more people. I believe that university will kindly nourish this idea and make equality a closer reality.

I have more things to learn about diversity and inclusion, but I understand your university is committed to it. I'm sure I can contribute to this devotion. I believe that diversity brings more perspectives and greater possibilities. The diversity will nourish the community. The devotion will be a remarkable success for the university under everyone's contribution.