

Statement of Contributions to Diversity

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On May 2016, Apple Inc invested \$1 billion in Chinese ride-hailing service Didi ChuXing, a move that Tim Cook said would help Apple better understand the critical Chinese market. On August 2016, Didi ChuXing bought Uber's China businesses after expensive price war. The flat world described in Thomas Friedman's book is becoming so connected unprecedentedly that no one can ignore what is happening at the other side of the globe. As a Chinese, one of my main contributions to diversity will be bringing insights in the Asian market to students in economics department. I grew up in the south of China and went to college in Beijing. Having spent almost six years in the U.S., I still remain passionate about keeping myself updated with the Chinese market, which is an increasingly important player in the global field. I always discussed with my Chinese friends and acquaintances who are working in a variety of areas and economics in China about the economics phenomenon in Chinese market as well as big international deals between Chinese firms and other corporations. Therefore, I would be able to impart such an international vision to my students by incorporating examples about Chinese markets into class.

The number of international students has been rising over the years. One of the most common challenges international students face is dealing with "culture shock." Students from Asia are generally considered as quiet and shy in classes. As someone who received many years of education in China, I have experienced the same situation during my study in U.S as all the international students from Asia have. Hence, I would be able to share with students my experiences and the efforts that I made to get adjusted to the active class atmosphere. In my Mathematical Economics class, there were two Chinese students who always sat together at the corner and seldom asked or answered questions at the beginning. When they came to my office hours, I kept motivating and encouraging them to participate more in class. It was relatively easy to convince them which was the better way to spend time in class given my own experience and the fact that we came from the same cultural background. Besides, I dispersed international students across groups for group discussion and assignments so they had more chances to speak English and get involved in different culture.

Last but not least, my resources in and knowledge about the Chinese market will contribute to the economics research. Because of both the increasingly globalized economy and more accessible international data, the opportunities for conducting international economics research are many and growing. As a Chinese, I can make researchers in the U.S. aware of Chinese database such as The China Health and Nutrition Survey (CHNS) Database based on which many interesting ideas can be conducted. Meanwhile, as a frequent follower of Chinese economics news, I can both enrich my current projects and future research agenda by taking advantage of my knowledge about the Chinese market. For example, one of my research interests is how pension and demographic structure affect the international capital allocation. The international setting is very attractive in furthering this research area.