

Diversity and Inclusion Statement

I am deeply committed to diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) in all aspects of my work, including research, teaching, mentoring, and services to the community. My research focuses heavily on the wellness of rural residents and the development of rural areas. For example, as one of my key research projects, I have developed a large-scale cellular coverage simulator that aims at helping bridge the digital gap of broadband access between rural and urban regions by (i) quantitatively evaluating the difference and (ii) exploring low-cost coverage extension solutions. I am committed to working with individuals from diverse backgrounds and perspectives in order to create enriching opportunities and pathways to success for all members of Purdue's community.

To create an environment that fosters open and respectful dialogue and encourages my students to express their individual needs, I always include an explicit declaration in my class introduction that I am happy to take questions and accommodate individual student needs for them to learn better. My teaching experience with students from a broad range of backgrounds has trained me to pay attention to different needs of different students. I have been actively learning and employing inclusive classroom teaching methods to ensure DEI in my classrooms.

In terms of mentoring, I strive to contribute to a culture of welcoming all people and take all opportunities I encounter to help everyone succeed and thrive. One way of achieving this is by devoting time and effort to help graduate mentees in my lab. By encouraging open communication, I am able to help my mentees from various cultures succeed. For example, one of my mentees considered continuing their PhD program at Purdue because they would like to keep working with me. I have been intentionally attending various mentoring workshops and training to ensure effective and inclusive mentoring experiences for my mentees.

Throughout my long history of service to the community, I have always looked for opportunities to help underrepresented minority students succeed. For example, soon after I studied at Purdue, I served as a note-taker in the Disability Resource Center. As another example, I have served twice as a mentor in the Pathway to PhD (PPP) program, a 2-day workshop and network-building program designed to address the often-observed lack of awareness by under-represented minority and first-generation low-income students about graduate school. Currently, I am serving on the board of the Student Leadership Council of the IoT4Ag research center. My primary responsibilities include increasing undergraduate participation in IoT4Ag research and promoting diversity and inclusion through various activities.

In the future, I plan to continue my involvement with organizations that promote diversity. I will live as a role model to my students and mentees by valuing each individual and their viewpoints. For example, I plan to attend more workshops and training sessions on DEI topics so that I can continue to learn about best practices in this area. Additionally, I plan to continue mentoring underrepresented minority students so that they can achieve their goals.