2. The University values diversity, broadly defined to include diversity of experiences, perspectives, backgrounds, and talents. Enrolling a diverse community of scholars interested in learning with and from each other fosters discussion and discovery inside and outside of the classroom. Please share briefly how you might contribute to, or benefit from, our community of scholars. (Max 150 words)

As an Indonesian female in an international school that was predominantly male and Korean, I can’t say I’ve ever been part of the majority group. In fact, here in Indonesia, the issue of a lack of women as leaders who voice out their opinions still persists. Though my relatives had questioned my desire in attaining a high education and career, I pursued my dreams and strived to prove to my society that females could lead and leave a lasting impact. To further empower young females, I collaborated with a friend I had bonded with overseas in leading a multinational team in an organization and blog platform known as Females BOLD. As part of the University of Minnesota’s community of scholars, I strive to help all individuals feel welcome and encourage them to pursue their goals and lead their community in creating a lasting impact.

Hi Rachel,

I think what you have here would be able to contribute/benefit from the university’s community of scholars! ☺

In order to make this stronger, I suggest adding words that would help link your background and experience clearer. An example would be, “Therefore as someone that has experienced being a minority/difficulties in voicing out opinions and aspire to make a difference, I believe I would be able to contribute to the University of Minnesota’s community of scholars by….”

Also if possible, I think it would be better if we could focus and add on to how you might contribute to/benefit from more (and perhaps cut a little bit of the background to make the word count). Maybe you could add 1 or 2 sentences on how you plan to help individuals feel welcome, pursue their goals, lead their communities – do you plan to be active in any organization in the university that might help you empower other women as well (if that’s one of the ways you could contribute)?

All the best, Rachel! ☺