## Diversity and Inclusion Statement Assad Maalouf

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As an educator with a diverse academic and cultural background, I am deeply committed to fostering an inclusive learning environment where all students feel valued, respected, and empowered to succeed. My experiences, ranging from earning a Teaching Diploma in Science from the Lebanese University to obtaining a Professional Master of Science in Computer Science from Maharishi University of Management, completing a Ph.D. in Computer Science at Oakland University, and gaining extensive industry experience, have profoundly shaped my understanding of the vital role diversity plays in education. I believe that the richness of diverse perspectives is essential to innovation and growth in the field of computer science.

My teaching philosophy is rooted in the belief that education should be accessible to all students, regardless of their background or circumstances. I strive to create a classroom environment that bridges the gap between theoretical knowledge and practical application, ensuring that every student can relate abstract concepts to real-world experiences that resonate with their unique perspectives. By using practical examples and culturally relevant content, I make complex ideas accessible to students from all walks of life.

In my role as an Assistant Professor at Maharishi International University, I have consistently worked to promote inclusivity in my teaching practices. I emphasize active learning, hands-on projects, and collaborative activities that encourage students to learn from each other's diverse experiences. My commitment to diversity extends beyond the classroom, as I am dedicated to mentoring and advising students, particularly those from underrepresented groups in computer science. I guide them through their academic and professional journeys, helping them navigate challenges, identify their strengths, and achieve their goals.

Maharishi International University's Consciousness-Based Education (CBE) has also played a significant role in shaping my approach to diversity and inclusion. The incorporation of Transcendental Meditation (TM) into the curriculum fosters a positive and supportive learning environment that enhances focus, reduces stress, and promotes a sense of belonging. These principles align closely with my commitment to creating an inclusive classroom where all students can thrive. By integrating CBE into my teaching, I

help students not only master technical skills but also develop the soft skills necessary for success in a diverse and global workforce.

I am also actively involved in curriculum development, ensuring that the courses I teach are inclusive and reflect the latest industry trends and technologies. I believe that staying current with technological advancements is crucial to providing all students with the tools they need to succeed in the rapidly evolving tech industry. By continuously updating the curriculum to include diverse perspectives and emerging technologies, I aim to equip my students with a cutting-edge education that prepares them for the challenges of the future.

In conclusion, my vision as an educator is to empower all students to become knowledgeable, innovative, and ethical professionals who contribute meaningfully to the field of computer science. I am passionate about nurturing the next generation of computer scientists who are not only technically proficient but also attuned to the ethical and societal implications of their work. I am committed to making a lasting impact on my students by fostering an inclusive environment that celebrates diversity and prepares them to succeed in a global and interconnected world.