

## **Statement of Diversity**

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I am proud to be a part of the Oregon State Community where diversity, equity and inclusion are matters of importance that start at the highest levels of leadership and extend to the day to day activities of all employees. Oregon State describes one of our key principles as the following, “We strive to create and nurture an environment where a diversity of people, ideas, and perspectives flourish and inspire creativity and achievement.” This fits well with my personal view of the incredible wealth of diverse experience and knowledge shared everyday across our campus, and the benefits this knowledge brings.

A key moment of learning for me was when I attended the Students Speak Out Event. I have always striven to make sure that everyone from all walks of life feels welcome and accepted but this event raised my awareness around issues that still need to be addressed. A few important parts of my background that have prepared me to help build an inclusive and diverse community include almost four years of experience working in Student Life, three years of teaching experience and my MBA where I worked with an international team on a group thesis. These are just a start and I am always striving to learn and grow as a person.

Being an instructor has allowed me to keep learning and implementing new ways to create a welcoming environment. I just finished teaching an Agriculture course. As a first time instructor in the Agricultural Department the Dean of Instruction and interim Dean of Agricultural Science sat in on one of my courses. She wrote this as part of my review, “You do a wonderful job creating an open, welcoming, supportive atmosphere. It’s clear your students feel at ease.” I was excited to receive this feedback, especially given how nervous I was having the Dean sitting in on my class.

What really draws me to this opportunity is my ability to work first hand with students and help them succeed. While the position is an academically focused role my goal would be to be a good listener who creates opportunity and removes barriers students are facing. During my time in Student Life I was able to learn about the many rich resources offered here on campus and would view myself as promoting academic success but also being knowledgeable about where students can get other types of help. For instance if they want to be more involved I could help them explore student organizations, if they are experiencing any forms of discrimination I would get them in touch with the Office of Institutional Diversity.

Even though I would be primarily an academic adviser I would immediately take some practical steps to allow me to create a more positive community. The first steps I would take would be speaking with my supervisor to get a better grasp of what falls within the scope of my position, setting up a meeting with the Office of Institutional Diversity and the student Cultural Centers and seeking out some forums where I can listen to students speak on these issues. I would also analyze any existing data and begin to establish current benchmarks and future goals for the College of Engineering. I would also work to connect with broader programs that offer resources towards increasing opportunities for historically underrepresented groups.