**Statement of Diversity**

David Vasquez

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. I realize there is still a lot of work to be done, especially in the STEM field. Working as the Outreach and Industry Relations Coordinator would allow me to make an incredible impact in this area and that is one of the reasons I am drawn to this exciting position.

A few important parts of my background that have prepared me to help make the School a more 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. In the business sector I worked at Legacy Health System as an intern who helped create a program to attract and retain more minority owned vendors for the hospital. Being able to get out into the community and speak with these small business owners was an incredible learning experience for me. Finally, I was a volunteer for two years on the Disability Affairs and Community Affairs Task Forces led by President Ray.

This is an area that I am always seeking to learn and grow in through education, hands on experience and the ability to listen. 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.

After attending one of my classes the Dean of Instruction and Interim Dean of Agricultural Science wrote as a part of my review, “You do a wonderful job creating an open, welcoming, supportive atmosphere. It’s clear your students feel at ease.” This is the type of environment I would hope to create for industry members, faculty, staff, alumni and students from all walks of life.

As far as practical first steps I would begin by meeting with my supervisor about practical steps we could implement for the coming year. Next, I would set up a meeting with the Office of Institutional Diversity and the student Cultural Centers to let them know who I am and our goals for the School. I would also analyze any existing data and begin to establish current benchmarks and future goals we could strive towards. I would also work to connect with broader programs that offer resources towards increasing opportunities for historically underrepresented groups.