

Diversity Statement

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As an educator and investigator in physical layer and cybersecurity at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, I am profoundly devoted to promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion in academia. These ideals are not just consistent with my personal values. Nonetheless, they are critical for developing cybersecurity innovation and ensuring that technical innovations reflect human values and benefit society equally. My experiences have highlighted the importance of diversity in promoting academic success and improving the security of our digital infrastructure.

I'm committed to addressing the issue of women and minorities' underrepresentation in STEM professions, especially in cybersecurity and computer science. I've had the opportunity to work with people from a variety of backgrounds because of the varied student body I've encountered at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. This setting has widened my horizons and made me realize how important it is to have a variety of perspectives while solving challenging cybersecurity issues.

I intend to actively recruit students from underrepresented groups for my cybersecurity research team and physical layer to promote diversity and inclusiveness. I'll also take part in outreach initiatives from the university to K-12 schools to promote minority and female students' interest in STEM fields, particularly cybersecurity. In addition, I want to create summer programs that introduce minority students to threat analysis, network security, and cryptography through cutting-edge cybersecurity research.

In the classroom, I'll put inclusiveness and unconscious bias prevention techniques into practice. This entails putting different viewpoints in cybersecurity training materials, having an honest discussion about diversity in the computer sector, and setting clear expectations for polite communication. I aim to make my courses as inclusive as I can so that students with different backgrounds—regardless of how much or little experience they have in the field—can interact with cybersecurity ideas.

Aside from teaching, I intend to contribute to university-wide diversity efforts. I will push for fair treatment of applicants at all stages of the academic pipeline, from undergraduate admission to faculty hiring. This includes formalizing methods for effectively contextualizing the achievements of minority candidates in the physical, network, transport, and cybersecurity layers and taking into account any challenges they may have surmounted.

To increase the impact of diversity programs, I plan to collaborate with organizations that introduce high school students to cybersecurity principles. By participating in initiatives like the National Cyber League and CyberPatriot, I wish to inspire and prepare a broad population of future cybersecurity professionals. In organizing seminars and workshops at the University, I will prioritize inviting speakers from underrepresented groups, increasing their visibility, and serving as role models for students interested in cybersecurity jobs.

My dedication to diversity extends to my cybersecurity research methods as well. I will continue to advise students from all backgrounds, including institutions with limited cybersecurity research possibilities. By guiding, creating confidence, and establishing connections with corporate and academic contacts in network and

cybersecurity, I hope to enable these students to become future leaders who will increase diversity and inclusion in our area.

Through these multiple initiatives, I hope to build an enriching educational and research environment at the University that will equip students for success in the constantly evolving field of cybersecurity. This commitment goes beyond mere representation; it entails creating a culture in which everyone feels appreciated, heard, and empowered to contribute to cybersecurity. By aggressively supporting diversity, equity, and inclusion, we can create a new generation of diverse, culturally competent cybersecurity professionals and researchers to drive innovation and improve the security of our digital world.