

Diversity Statement

Why do I trust an individual blindly? When do I feel comfortable with someone I don't know? It's influenced by their perspective on diversity, equity, and inclusion in society. I come from a culture where people often judge others based on their wealth, religious beliefs, race, or skin color. Values of diversity, equity and inclusion were neglected for a long time, resulting in people still suffering from impostor syndrome, microaggressions, and more. I appreciate the University of Colorado Boulder's (CU Boulder) commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion in the Department of Computer Science. I strongly believe that these inclusive initiatives will enable me to make a meaningful contribution during my graduate career, just as I have in my educational and professional life.

Throughout my educational and professional journey, I've experienced a diverse and multifaceted life. During my undergraduate studies, I collaborated with classmates of different ethnicities and cultures, always respecting their perspectives, cultures, languages, and engaged in constructive discussions when we had differing views on a subject. Currently, as a graduate student at the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology, I continue to engage with people from various countries through my involvement with the President's Leadership Academy, Graduate Student's Society, and International Students Inc. (ISI). ISI is a place where international students, far from home, find a connection and a large, diverse family to call their own. My commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion extends beyond the classroom. Last year, I participated in a fundraising program organized by ISI. I am also a registered volunteer with "Be the Match," where I help find plasma, platelet, and bone marrow donors to aid in the treatment of cancer patients in the United States. These experiences have deepened my understanding of the importance of diversity in problem-solving and innovation.

Furthermore, my professional experiences are quite diversified, and I have held various roles in different organizations, including my position as an Assistant Manager (Technical) at Bangladesh Telecommunications Company Limited. There, I gained a deep understanding of the importance of diverse perspectives and learned how to foster inclusivity, ensuring that individuals felt fairly and respectfully treated, valued, and that they belonged. In addition, I also learned how to be an active listener and how to encourage and empower my colleagues, regardless of their gender, race, color, dress standards, language barriers, or socioeconomic background.

As a prospective candidate for my graduate studies at CU Boulder, I am eagerly looking forward to continuing this work. I firmly believe that advancing diversity and inclusion within an organization is a continuous process that requires dedication and development. To contribute to this process, I am committed to creating an environment that is welcoming and inclusive for all students. It is my goal to be involved in different on-campus and off-campus organizations to promote diversity, equity, and inclusion in the Department of Computer Science. My work plan includes taking part in volunteer programs, workshops, and projects that educate marginalized communities about technology and provide them with the tools to use it for their own and others' professional development. I am committed to listening to the voices of underrepresented groups and learning from their experiences to update my future actions and advocacy for change.

Apart from my educational and professional background, I am self-educating in the areas of diversity, equity, and inclusion. My past experiences have given me a distinct viewpoint that has helped me value inclusivity and different cultures. I appreciate and celebrate diverse thoughts and experiences, enhancing my interactions with fellow students and faculty.

In conclusion, I'm glad to say that I will support CU Boulder's dedication to diversity, equity, and inclusion throughout my graduate career. My experiences, viewpoints, and objectives are consistent with the department's commitment to creating a diverse community. Therefore, I look forward to collaborating with faculty, staff, and students to enhance inclusivity and diversity, enabling everyone to thrive and contribute.

Sincerely,

Md Kausar Hamid Miji