PERSONAL STATEMENT

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My experiences dealing with **financial constraints as a first-generation American** from Indonesia have instilled in me a deep commitment to making education more accessible. I am grateful for the full-tuition scholarship and need-based aid that made my undergraduate studies possible, and I have taken on research or teaching roles every semester to cover the remaining costs. **I aspire to become a professor** to follow my passions for both research and teaching, aiming to create opportunities for those who might face similar barriers.

Pursuing a PhD in Computer Science at Princeton University would be a step in that direction. I look forward to taking advantage of the service opportunities available at Princeton. Whether it be through mentoring high school students through the **AI4ALL summer camp**, or being a TA for **"COS429: Computer Vision,"** I hope to inspire.

I have come a long way from twisting heating coils for vacuum chambers at the Emmerich Research Center, where we monitored larval growth one day and helped students build toy cars the next. And yet, today I find myself in a familiar role: computing neural activity traces for fluorescent roundworms by day and guiding a high schooler as he codes his room-mapping car by night—once again juggling responsibilities as a researcher and a mentor.