Diversity Statement

The first thing I feel like I need to say regarding diversity is that I am a middle class, straight, cis-gendered, white male. I think an important part of my role as such is to recognize the privilege I am afforded in every important aspect of my life. It is also important, I feel, to use my privilege as a springboard for change. Additionally, I have been lucky enough to go to a private, liberal arts school for my undergraduate degree.

This advantage, though, has taught me a lot. We were required to take many courses outside of math and science. I took Reasoning, Human Nature, Ethics, Intro to Solidarity and Social Justice, Cultural Anthropology, Islam and the Contemporary World and Philosophy of Sex and Gender. I am so thankful for the opportunity I was given to take these courses. While they are a result of my privilege, they also opened my eyes to the injustices of the world and formed me into a better, more conscientious person. I have no doubt that the reasoning skills I learned in these courses will be instrumental not only in the way I interact with other people but also in my technical engineering work.

I may not add diversity to the University of Minnesota College of Science and Engineering on paper, but I will be trying my best to learn to live in ways which disrupt and dismantle oppressive power structures.