

A commitment to educating and serving diverse communities is central to the mission of all academic institutions. In spite of this, the academy has failed to live up to this ideal. As a queer woman of color working in fields dominated by heterosexual white males, I have witnessed firsthand how the academy can either include or exclude members. It is our responsibility as academics to transform this space into one that is inclusive and accessible to all. This ideology is central to the five thrusts of the Bouchet Graduate Honor Society, and my record highlights my work towards this goal.

Scholarship: My academic history demonstrates excellence in generating and disseminating knowledge. In addition to a robust publication record, detailed in my CV, I have significant experience using pedagogical best-practices within the classroom having assisted in 5 different courses (over a total of 9 semesters). I continuously advance my teaching techniques by participating in additional training through Cornell's Center for Teaching Innovation (CTI) to ensure that I employ the most inclusive strategies.

Leadership: The reformation of the academy requires individuals to take initiative and develop more inclusive institutional policies. I have worked with administrators to reinvent outdated practices while on the Graduate and Professional Student Assembly (GPSA) and as a student-elected member on the Board of Trustees. I have also served for over three years as president of my department's graduate student association where I have worked with faculty to develop more inclusive mentoring practices.

Advocacy: Change occurs when individuals highlight inequitable practices and campaign for inclusive substitutes. While on the GPSA, I co-sponsored resolutions that accentuated exclusionary policies and promoted inclusive alternatives. These include calling for Cornell websites to be accessible for individuals with visual impairments, a stronger institutional commitment to the LGBTQ+ community, and a guarantee of support for students whose freedom of movement is limited by governmental policies.

Service: Integrating scholars from underrepresented backgrounds into the community relies on current members sharing their gained experience to support others development. I have partnered with other doctoral students to create demos for the annual Expanding Your Horizons conference. I have also planned several events within my department to provide female graduate students in the field with informal mentorship opportunities.

Character: Scholars must show a life-long commitment to making the academy more accessible. Since coming to Cornell, I have been involved with a variety of projects seeking to improve our campus community. Some projects, such as working with the Graduate School and CTI to ensure all TAs receive training in inclusive teaching techniques, have spanned the course of several years highlighting my long-term engagement with these issues.

My long-term goal is to pursue a career as a tenure-track faculty member. I will use my power as a faculty member to transform institutional practices so we can recruit and retain scholars from underrepresented backgrounds. My record clearly demonstrates my commitment to this and why I am a strong candidate for the Bouchet Graduate Honor Society.