

Mark Kim

Diversity Statement

By far the greatest example of my engagement and contribution to the community at SFSU would be during my time filling various leadership roles with the Association for Computing Machinery Student Chapter. As President, I led the post-pandemic revival of the organization, where I built a team of amazing student leaders from friends and complete strangers, all of whom hailed from a diverse combination of origins and cultures. To ensure a welcoming and inclusive environment, I emphasized an imperative that our mission was to assist students academically and professionally, while building a community of mutual support.

Our initial efforts were aimed at providing skill-building workshops (e.g. coding, technical interview, resume building) and professional panel discussions. Once we garnered a consistent and growing membership, we began focusing on creating specialized groups that would cater to more specific interests such as game development, algorithms, and cyber-security. We are often credited not for contributing to a community of students, but building a community of students from the wreckage of the pandemic. Today, this thriving community of students has grown into an organization of 15 special interest groups, over 30 officers, and an active membership of over 300 students interested in computing.

Perhaps the most important lesson that I learned is that for any movement to be sustainable, leadership must not be stagnant. New leaders need to be continuously identified and trained and past leaders need to "give up the mantle," especially in the context of a four year education.