Walking into my first Computer Science course in college and being asked if I am lost was one of the jarring experiences that could have deterred a younger me from pursuing my passion. Class after class, I had to prove that I could "do it" to my classmates and my professors alike. But soon, a professor I regarded highly suggested I apply for the Distributed Mentor Program – a CRA-W program for undergraduates in teaching schools to gain summer research experience at R1 schools. My professor insisted I apply despite my hesitation, and wrote me a letter of recommendation for the program – and that summer I was given the opportunity to work in Prof. Nancy Amato's research group, in a challenging and fascinating research program that launched my research career.

In graduate school, I quickly found myself a part of the Aggie Women in Computer Science (AWICS), volunteering as a mentoring officer and eventually the president of the group for several years. In AWICS, I formalized my understanding of why mentoring is so crucial at every stage of one's career, and how we can all mentor those just a few years fewer into theirs.

As a graduate student, I was a technical mentor to five undergraduate students, and mentored several others. As my professional role grew, I mentored and supervised a dozen female Ph.D. students, post-docs, and early career scientists as staff at LLNL, and dozens of undergraduate students as a member of Supercomputing committee on student-related programs (Student Cluster Challenge, Broader Engagement, and Vice Chair of the Student program). I firmly believe that presenting a successful example in the field, being available for career questions, as well as mentoring, can help many female computer scientists overcome the superficial barriers of a mostly male field.

In my work with students as TAMU, I would like to pursue the following objectives:

1. **develop new talent:** help attract, retain, and motivate a diverse set of students with talent and skills necessary to learn and advance the cutting edge research in computer science;

2. **motivate the team:** support my students and research team in setting and meeting high academic objectives;

3. **model personal excellence:** mentor and coach others in order to strengthen the CSE Department and TAMU, act with integrity under all circumstances, and model work/life balance