

As a scholar in artificial intelligence (AI) and computer science, I see diversity and inclusion as not just ideals to aim for but as essential pillars for driving innovation, fostering collaboration, and addressing societal challenges. My experiences at Kno.e.sis Center at Wright State University, AI Institute at the University of South Carolina, along with participation in organizations like AnitaB Grace Hopper Celebration, ACM CRA-WP (grad cohort for women), Women in Machine Learning (WiML), ACM OCWiC, and TriWiC (Ohio Women in celebration) have shown me the transformative impact of diverse research environments. These experiences have strengthened my commitment to building inclusive spaces that celebrate and leverage diversity in all its forms.

Commitment to Diversity in Education: In my teaching and mentoring roles, I have consistently focused on creating an inclusive and accessible learning environment. For instance, while mentoring *high school* and *undergraduate students (computer science and nursing)* from different disciplines, I ensured their unique interests and experiences were integrated into their learning journeys. By creating individualized plans and fostering an environment of encouragement, I enabled these students to pursue ambitious projects, some of which earned academic recognition (*Best poster*). I have worked with *graduate students* on advanced research projects in smart manufacturing and healthcare. These collaborations, working across different cultural, educational, and professional backgrounds, reinforced my belief that diversity drives creativity and problem-solving.

Fostering an Inclusive Classroom: As a teaching assistant and lecturer, I have designed and delivered curricula that cater to diverse learning styles. In courses like Algorithm Design and Causal AI, I adopted active learning techniques and flipped classroom models to create an inclusive and engaging educational experience. I encouraged collaborative learning and group projects, which allowed students from various skill levels and perspectives to contribute meaningfully.

Research and Diversity: My research in causal and neuro-symbolic AI reflects my commitment to solving real-world problems that benefit under-represented and underserved communities. My projects like *kHealth-asthma*: which focuses on self-monitoring and management of asthma in children, *kHealth-OA*: which focuses on obesity management in children with asthma, and *InterACT-MI*: which employs AI to enhance healthcare for adolescents, address critical societal disparities in healthcare. These projects reflect my belief that we should not only drive innovation but also work to reduce inequities and expand opportunities for marginalized groups.

Advocacy for Equity in STEM: As a woman in computer science, I understand the challenges under-represented groups face in STEM fields. This understanding motivates my efforts to mentor and support students from diverse backgrounds, particularly women and under-represented minorities, to pursue AI and computer science careers. Through my involvement in initiatives such as the AI Summer School for high school students, and mentoring undergraduate and graduate researchers, I have worked to create pathways for students to engage with computer science early and confidently. Additionally, my role as an organizer and area chair for events like Women in Machine Learning (WiML) at NeurIPS reflects my dedication to creating platforms that amplify diverse voices in STEM.

Future Vision and Student Recruiting: As a faculty member, I will actively promote diversity, equity, and inclusion by implementing teaching practices that are accessible to all students, particularly those from historically underrepresented groups. I aim to design programs that encourage early exposure to AI and computer science for high school and undergraduate students, providing mentorship opportunities that inspire them to explore research and leadership roles in STEM. In my research, I will continue to prioritize projects that address societal inequities, ensuring that the technologies I develop are inclusive and beneficial to diverse populations. I intend to collaborate across disciplines and cultural boundaries to build a globally inclusive research community. I will attend and outreach to communities dedicated to advancing diversity, equality, and inclusion, such as ACM and IEEE chapter, ACM CRA-WP, WiML AnitaB, and Queer in AI. Some students feel excluded by traditional methods, I strive to foster an environment where every student feels welcome, comfortable, and confident to participate. I aspire to contribute to a more equitable and inclusive academic and research community through these efforts. As I transition into a faculty position, I aim to foster student's confidence and cultivate a positive, supportive academic culture by creating a welcoming and inclusive research group.