I am deeply committed to diversity, equality, and inclusion (DEI) in academia, drawing upon my personal experiences. As a first-generation college graduate and a person of color belonging to the lowest socioeconomic stratum in Indian society, I have firsthand experiences with the challenges that underrepresented minorities encounter, not just within academia but throughout social life. Given my background, I am well-positioned to contribute to the university's DEI efforts through my research, teaching, mentorship, and advocacy for equity.

Originating from India's lowest socioeconomic strata, I have encountered various forms of discrimination related to fundamental rights, including impediments to education, restricted access to the labor market, and limited social capital. My personal experiences include instances of mistreatment by high-caste educators and housing challenges stemming from caste-based bias exhibited by high-caste landlords toward low-caste tenants. These experiences underscore the stark disparities in our society. However, I have also benefited from certain public policies, such as food subsidies for low-income families and competitive government scholarships. These policies have played a pivotal role in facilitating education and ensuring sustenance for my family. It was through the aid of a scholarship that I became the first individual from my village to embark on a journey toward higher education in the United States. The support I received through scholarships and subsidies has not only propelled my academic pursuits but has also ignited my passion for research and teaching. My academic endeavors are centered on the examination of policy impacts on critical facets such as health, human capital, and overall welfare, with a particular focus on expanding opportunities for underrepresented and marginalized populations. During my visits to my hometown in India, I engage with local schools to share insights about higher education and narrate my personal journey to the United States. My own trajectory embodies resilience and serves as a motivating force for exploring similar initiatives that can uplift marginalized communities through education and research. Prior to pursuing graduate studies, I gained practical insights by working at construction sites. This experience provided a deeper understanding of the challenges faced by daily-wage laborers, further shaping my perspective on the integration of real-life experiences into academic research and policy formulation. Inclusivity remains the driving force behind my academic pursuits, propelling me to make meaningful contributions to the discourse on economic equity and social justice.

I was recently chosen as a Diversity Scholar at American University's Public Policy Department, where I had the opportunity to spend a week with scholars from other diverse backgrounds, including Native Americans, Blacks, and Hispanics. Interactions with them provided new perspectives on the inclusion of voices from diverse and under-representative communities in academia.

As a person of color and a First-Generation scholar, I deeply grasp the imperative of fostering inclusivity. Actively, I engage in diversity initiatives: mentoring First-generation students, mentoring two undergrad students in their capstone project under Prof. Jeremy Foltz, and representing peers in faculty and Ph.D. selection panels. Through these roles, I aim to attract diverse talents to economics, honing skills to implement DEI measures in hiring. I mentor in the NextGen Population program, backed by NICHD and the Population Association of America (PAA), nurturing a diverse cohort of future scholars.

In my research, I bolster Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion by investigating technology's race, geography, age, and gender-based variations. In the US, pronounced disparities in high-speed broadband access rooted in race, rural locale, and gender emerged—likewise, my analysis probes caste-driven disparities in India's green revolution, favoring higher castes. Future pursuits encompass investigating disability-linked internet access utilizing restricted Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) data.

My personal encounters with inequity, unwavering DEI commitment, and research orientation empower me to make vital contributions to academic diversity and inclusion. I am devoted to cultivating inclusiveness, aiding underrepresented peers, and harmonizing diverse outlooks within economics and public policy. Collaborative prospects with diverse colleagues enthuse me, propelling affirmative transformation and advancing equity.