

Diversity is the key to education equality and research innovation. Unfortunately, despite the continuous effort, the computer science field still has a severe diversity problem. In this statement, I discuss why advancing diversity is critical, what I have done to promote diversity, and the approaches I have in mind to create an equal and friendly environment for students of all ethnicity and genders.

**Understanding Diversity.** I am committed to diversity and aware of the barriers that underrepresented minorities face in the computer science field. In particular, I firmly believe that everyone should have an equal right to education; education provides self-confidence and self-respect. Furthermore, it is essential to achieving economic, social, and civil rights goals. Therefore, ensuring all students, regardless of their gender or race, have fair access to computer science education is critical. Moreover, diversity drives innovation; every single person has a different view drawn from different cultures and backgrounds. Sharing different views stimulate great research ideas. Therefore, it is the obligation of the university community, including every student, staff, and faculty, to remedy the current disparities in the partition of computer science field.

**Promoting Diversity.** During my research career, I have been actively promoting diversity. When I was a TA at UCLA, knowing that some students may be uncomfortable asking for help, I proactively asked the students in my class whether they needed assistance in understanding the course material. I often used my extra time beyond regular office hours to advise students on their future career paths. I participate in conferences and university events that help understand and promote diversity. One of the recent examples is a speed chatting event hosted by the computer science department of EPFL, where, as a relatively senior researcher, I shared my experience and advice with female Ph.D. students.

**Towards a diverse and equal future.** Lack of exposure to computer science is a key reason for blocking some students from entering and staying computer science. A major part of the diversity problem in computer science is rooted in the homogeneity of application pool; most applicants have almost the same background. I will actively work with the community to remove such a barrier by making computer science more accessible. Below are some of the ideas I have in mind. First, I plan to work with middle schools to offer simple programming courses to get students interested in computer science. Second, I will explore the possibility of holding info sessions about computer science in high schools and help to clarify the doubts of students and actively encourage everyone to apply. Finally, I plan to coordinate with the university to organize computer science open days for the general public and let them know more about computer science research.

I also observe that first-year students with less exposure to computer science before may have difficulties studying together with students that have more exposure. I found that introductory courses targeting students with a relatively weak background are an effective way to resolve this issue. Such courses provide students with everything they need for the following courses and a boost in confidence at the very beginning of their computer science study. I plan to contribute to these courses or help initiate them.