

## CONTRIBUTION TO EQUITY AND DIVERSITY

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Growing up as an intelligent, brunette woman, **the struggle for equity and inclusiveness has been central to my development as a person.** Although slavery and the racial caste system were abolished since the establishment of Mexico as a country, their consequences linger nowadays in a deeply classist society where instant judgements are made from a glimpse at one's skin color, accents and clothing. I grew up in Mexico City; for the majority of its ebullient population, their ancestors migrated from diverse and remote parts of the country and abroad. This is the case of my family, where the legacy of three out of my four grandparents was lost partly because hiding humble, indigenous roots is crucial to thrive in the capital.

As it is the case in most societies of the last century, I grew up among constant, subtle reminders that I should conform to the unattainable standards that were required from my gender. I firmly consider myself a feminist; however, the new concepts of non-conforming genders didn't exist in Mexico when I formed my identity. I realize now that my feminist stance, initially, had less to do with my belief of equality between genders and more with a search for an alternative to being a woman. Although I escaped the direct indoctrination that women are not capable of pursuing STEM careers, I was not so fortunate to reject the belief that there was choice to be made between my career and my family.

I am grateful that, along my formative years, I encountered teachers and professors that showed me alternative ways of thinking and helped me overcome outdated conceptions of gender and their expectations. **Most of their help came to me interweaved in seemingly inconsequential conversations.** A key role model in my college years was Ana Meda, who taught me Calculus and Probability. Ana would start her lectures with a seemingly innocuous monologue about daily life issues (college, her recent publications, family, etc.). Her views were always assertive, explicit in their ethical base and, if necessary, challenged the established norms. Her comments were fresh and original in that I, as a student, was considering certain topics for the first time. Ana Meda's monologues formed in me a deep sense of resilience and commitment to speak truth at all times. Regardless of the path my career will take me, I want to reproduce this domino effect.

I am utterly committed to contribute to the fight for peoples' right (women, indigenous, homeless, transgender, just to name a few causes that are close to my heart). **I have participated in a wide variety of workshops on inclusivity and on pedagogical strategies.** I want to instill self-confidence and resilience in my students. I am particularly interested in creating environments where people feel safe to share their experiences; to do so, **I strive to develop effective storytelling techniques that will help me connect with my students** and encourage them to make a change in whatever issue they see a gap to be closed.

As my academic passion is mathematics, I will continue to imbue my approach to research and teaching with awareness and projects on the importance of equity and inclusion in all the areas of the academic life. Adjusting to my institution resources, **I will promote any existing program and plan on proposing new projects, such as the Directing Reading Program which is detailed in my teaching statement.**