

## **Diversity Statement**

Being open and accepting of diversity is essential in society. Even populations with seemingly homogeneous characteristics have great variety when considering political ideation, religious beliefs, cultural background, etc. Yet, populations with drastic contrasts in race, religion, education levels, etc. also have many more similarities than would first appear. I believe that I can find common ground with any individual, no matter how different they seem from me.

In my education and work experiences I have worked with many diverse populations. As an instructor I worked with students from many races and backgrounds. Taking a phenomenological approach with my students plays a major role. When I put matters in terms of their perspectives, understanding, compassion, and empathy, productivity greatly expanded. The more I teach students, the more I can see myself in their shoes. I find that the world becomes a much happier and accepting place when individuals can see things from others' point of view.

I've lived in various states from east coast to mid-west, from north to south and have traveled internationally before I was 20 years old. At that time I was very young and had not had much exposure to diverse populations. Yet, being immersed in a different cultures helped me see that people live differently than me, eat differently than me, speak differently than me, have different opinions than me, and that is okay. In fact, it is the differences that make the world rich and interesting. My exposure to a different culture helped me see the possibilities the world has to offer.

I believe that diversity in the work place greatly adds to a company. Having employees from various backgrounds brings viewpoints that can enlighten and bring greater creativity to an organization. I am committed to working in an environment where diversity is welcomed, and I intend on fostering diversity in whatever place I am employed.