Computer science serves as a driving force for both technological innovation and economic growth, creating a ripple effect that enhances the well-being of those who contribute to the field. I am deeply committed to expanding participation across demographic and gender lines, ensuring that opportunities in this transformative discipline are accessible to all. Numerous opportunities and exceptional mentorship have enriched my journey in computer science throughout my academic career, and I aim to pay this forward by fostering similar opportunities for others.

In line with my commitment to fostering diversity in computer science research, I serve as a mentor for the SIGPLAN Long-Term Mentoring Committee (SIGPLAN-M)[1]. This program is designed to support aspiring researchers, particularly those from underrepresented backgrounds, by providing long-term mentorship and opportunities to engage in research. My role as a mentor extends beyond research guidance; I also assist students with career development, offering feedback on their higher education application materials to help them present their best selves during the application process. Going forward, I want to lead creation of similar mentorship programs but focused towards increasing diversity in the security and software engineering communities.

I also want to ensure my teaching and research mentorship extends beyond university students. As part of my commitment, I aim to build outreach programs targeted at aspiring researchers from underrepresented demographics, providing them with opportunities to engage in research. I also want to extend these programs to school-aged students, instilling critical thinking skills at an early age.

During the height of the pandemic, research became an especially isolating experience. The counseling services and support groups provided by my PhD-granting institution were crucial in maintaining my overall well-being during that challenging time. This experience underscored the importance of not only taking care of our mental health but also recognizing the value of support structures. As a mentor, I am committed to ensuring that my mentees always have access to these essential resources when needed, and to fostering an environment where they feel comfortable seeking support.

Finally, to help address the underrepresentation of women in STEM, I am dedicated to fostering inclusivity through my research mentorship. As part of these efforts, I actively engage women in cybersecurity research, having mentored three women to date. During my postdoctoral work, I expanded my mentorship outreach to include Barnard, a women's college associated with Columbia University. Moving forward, I am committed to building a research group that embodies diversity and equity, particularly supporting historically underrepresented minorities, such as women and people of color.

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[1] https://www.sigplan.org/LongTermMentoring/