

DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

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The importance of active engagement of traditionally under-served communities in the state through the University of California (UC) system and the Cooperative Extension (CE) network cannot be overstated. My experiences growing up poor in a rural, economically depressed region combined with my education and experience across three UC campuses system have reinforced for me the importance of:

- an inclusive interpretation of diversity that recognizes the range of identities and experiences and their distinct challenges
- diversity as a driver of innovation and vigor within a research context

The CE network is, in many ways, the public face of the UC system and has a central role in extending the opportunities and expertise within the system to serve the breadth of the states diverse population.

I have traveled extensively in Pacific Rim region and speak Spanish fluently. I have worked in close collaboration with colleagues from the Middle East, South Asia, and Latin America. I have had the fortune to work under the supervision and guidance of excellent female superiors in both a professional and academic context. I recognize the privileged position in this society I have as a white male and I try to reflect on this privilege in interactions with colleagues and in setting priorities for outreach and extension work.

In the domain of this position, I believe that key contributions to diversity and inclusion can be made through

1. developing multi-lingual outreach materials
2. outreach to the community of NGOs advocating for environmental justice issues, especially around air pollution,
3. developing extension programs to expand opportunities in the forest product sector to under served communities