I am driven to ensure that computing becomes a welcoming and supportive field where individuals from all backgrounds can thrive. As the first in my family to attend high school, college, and graduate school, and as the only person in my extended family to pursue a career in STEM, I have faced personal and professional challenges throughout my education and early career. These experiences have strengthened my commitment to supporting more individuals, especially those from underrepresented groups, to succeed in their careers.

Mentoring: I have mentored ten undergraduate and master's students, 40% of whom are female and 50% are international students. Students from underrepresented backgrounds often experience a lack of confidence or struggle with communicating in their non-native languages – a challenge I have faced myself. To support them, I shared my own experiences, organized extra meetings to work through expressing ideas, and seized every opportunity to affirm their capabilities.

As a professor, I will be committed to actively pursuing funding to create research opportunities for undergraduates, particularly from institutions that are often underrepresented in Ph.D. admissions and research settings. This support will allow me to provide summer internships and extended research collaborations, giving students hands-on experience in technical fields, fostering their professional growth, and introducing them to the academic research environment. By guiding them through research challenges, I aim to build their confidence and inspire them to envision a future in STEM.

Teaching: I love giving talks and tutorials, and sharing my knowledge of cutting-edge research with audiences who are eager to learn but lack access to resources. Coming from a small liberal arts college in the U.S. with no NLP professors or courses, I deeply understand the challenges of accessing resources for advanced research in an extremely fast-growing field. To help bridge this gap, I have released all my talk and tutorial materials online. It has been fulfilling for me to receive emails from students around the world expressing their gratitude for these learning resources.

Building on this, my goal as an educator is to make advanced computing topics, especially in NLP and reasoning, accessible to all students around the world. I plan to create open-source course materials and leverage online platforms to reach a broader audience. In my classroom, I plan to incorporate hands-on projects and collaborative learning opportunities. I aim to foster an engaging classroom environment where students feel supported and inspired to explore cutting-edge research. Through these efforts, I hope to empower students from underrepresented communities to overcome barriers and succeed in the rapidly evolving field of computing.

Recruiting: I served as a student member on the Ph.D. admissions committee at Cornell CS four times. When I applied for graduate school, I had an interest in NLP but no prior experience in the field. This personal experience has made me particularly attentive to applicants from underrepresented groups. I thoroughly evaluate each student's merit and consider how well they have leveraged their opportunities given their educational environments.

To attract Ph.D. applicants from under-represented groups, I will engage with networks such as Queer in AI, WiNLP, and Black in AI. Additionally, I will pay special attention to applicants in developing countries and those with unconventional educational backgrounds. I also plan to support programs that provide applicants with pre-reviews of their application materials.

Service & Outreach: I was a student member of a teaching committee formed during COVID-19 to implement new course practices for the following academic year. I particularly advocated for international students who faced challenges such as different time zones and restricted internet access, proposing ways to improve their learning experience while they were abroad. Additionally, I co-organized the visit day for admitted Ph.D. students, leading an international student information session to provide additional support. I also proposed using multiple communication platforms besides Slack and Facebook to ensure every student had easy access to important announcements.

In the future, I plan to participate in and organize outreach programs for local schools and communities to promote interest in computing among underrepresented groups. This could include coding workshops, mentorship programs, and talks that inspire young students to pursue careers in STEM fields.