



opportunity to experience the benefits and challenges of living as a foreign worker. Being far away from home is not just missing homemade ██████████ but sometimes it is. It is nuanced. Despite being in an international academic environment while I lived in the US, I did not fully appreciate what it is like to live as a foreigner – now I do. With gratitude from these enriching experiences here in Switzerland, I am ready to come back to the US.

Wisdom, encouragement, and critique collected from many perspectives, cultures, and advisors had provided me with some tools to lift barriers that restrict the participation of underrepresented members in our academic communities. With these tools, I aim to do the following to serve the diverse students at UC-Berkeley:

- Align and share my vision to promote diversity and inclusion with the pioneering work established by the Division of Equity and Inclusion. This includes learning more about the STEM E&I and Chicax Latinx Taskforce initiatives as well as the membership to the National Center for Faculty Development and Diversity.
- Establish healthy academic relationships with students and mentees to build confidence and trust.
- Connect with the SACNAS and AISES chapters on the UC-Berkeley campus and offer undergraduate research opportunities in my lab.
- Share my challenges and successes to students and mentees so they may relate and learn.
- Network with the organizers of the Faculty Diversity Initiatives to learn new strategies from my colleagues so that I grow as a teacher, mentor, and community member.

For me, the term underrepresented minority draws strong sentiment. Latent in its meaning, are narratives of oppression and like many ██████████ I struggled against internalizing the hard truths of my people's history into my own personal narrative. If anything, my existence is distinguished by exceptional resilience. Now with clarity, I reject narratives that undermine my strength and brilliance, and instead, I am nourished by the wisdom from my teachings. But getting to this point was a journey, and I was able to develop this clarity through guidance and support from my community and family. They say, "it takes a village," and without a doubt, the reason I have advanced this far in my academic career is, in part, because my scientific ambition was nurtured by many individuals who devote their efforts to promote diversity, inclusivity, and retention to ensure the success of underrepresented and historically marginalized members in our academic communities. In kind, I am committed to empowering young minds.