



DIVERSITY STATEMENT

I lived most of my life in Miami: a very vibrant and diverse city with its own culture. I was in that bubble and thought that everyone lived the way that I did, accepting and understanding of different backgrounds. In Miami, where it is predominately Hispanic, I felt accepted and at home with others similar to that of myself. It was a huge culture shock when I moved to a small town in Idaho for my MFA, as for the first time I was not a part of the majority. I will never regret going to Idaho, because it opened my eyes to a world that was vastly different to what I was accustomed to. It opened my eyes to a new perspective. I do not want to approach life with a narrow scope, instead I want to engage and tell other people's stories.

In education, every student has the right to feel comfortable and respected. I want everyone to feel how I felt in Miami: accepted and cared for. I hope to not only become a mentor for underrepresented groups, but for them to feel that my classroom and office is a safe space for them. I also want them to open their eyes to stories much different than their own. For a lot of students, university may be the first time they encounter someone that is not in their usual bubble. I want to encourage them to be respectful and understanding of those people. Empathy is a skill that I feel is essential for theatre, so nurturing it in my students is a goal of mine.

Every student is different, so not everyone learns the same. And that is okay. In my experience, education should adapt to the student's needs. I am flexible and ready to adapt to different situations and will do everything within my power to accommodate to each students' needs.

As an individual, I am very proactive and advocate for groups such as Black Lives Matter, #MeToo, and the LGBTQIA+. These issues are important to me and I will not tolerate anyone who will make these individuals feel unsafe.

I know that I am not a perfect person, but I strive to always improve and learn in my teaching, professional, and personal life. I am always willing to admit when I have made a mistake and to continue to grow. Times are changing and we are slowly growing and learning, but there is still so much left to do. I am willing to be part of that change and lead a new generation into the future.