Diversity Statement

Skylar Wolcott

I grew up in a small suburb/farming community of primarily white middle class citizens. My high school had a graduating class of about 500 and of those there were maybe 5 POC students. From my surroundings and the lack of access to information I grew up with certain biases toward other races. It wasn't until I moved to Ann Arbor, MI where I discovered cultures other than my own and was able to finally learn and understand from others who were not like me.

Through my high education schooling and interacting with people in my daily work life, I was able to expand the horizons of my understanding and ultimately discover the diversity, equity, and inclusion space. I volunteered at my local sexual assault shelter and through this experience I learned about the inequality in my community between men versus women and how race further creates a divide in the treatment of those in need.

When entering my graduate program, I wanted to further expand on my journey of learning how I can learn, grow, and in turn help those around me through inclusive and equitable practices. Thus, I decided to start the DEI graduate certificate program to work more on discovering how I can contribute to the advancement of people of color and help in dismantling white supremacy in our lives. During my time in graduate school, I also found the courage to come out as a member of the LGBTQ+ community to my friends and family. During this time, I found nothing but love and support which made me realize that my story is unfortunately not the same as many others in this community and so I decided to join the programming board at the University of Michigan Spectrum Center to help with planning events for students to be able to come together for support and to have those important conversations about equality. While completing my education in the User Experience/Human-Computer Interaction space, I have learned of accessibility designs and how I can create solutions that are not only accessible to those with disabilities but ultimately to everyone which will create exceptional experiences. I have been able to combine my learnings in the DEI space with my learnings in the UX experiences.

After graduation, I want to continue my learning journey in the DEI space through participating in my future company's diversity program to expand transparency throughout the organization of how we can support each other, especially those in the minority communities. The designs I create will be accessible, inclusive, and diverse to ensure that all can be included in the conversations to find suitable solutions to our everyday problems in the digital space.