

Diversity Statement

I am committed to an active, intentional, and ongoing engagement with fostering diversity. Encouraging a myriad of voices and viewpoints is essential to shaping a more equitable future. Any creative/artistic and/or graphic design educational institution/business should foster an environment where everyone is comfortable articulating alternative points of view and opinions. These skills are necessary for communication and leadership in a multifaceted and changing world.

This has been a sincere goal of mine in my life and family as well as professionally as a designer and faculty member. I purposely live in a very diverse community so my children could grow up in an inclusive environment. We are blessed to have diverse members of our own family and in all the activities my children participated in when they were young. I had the opportunity to participate in school functions, as a coach, board member, and actual participant at times, sharing in these endeavors. My son served in the Marines and Navel Reserves where he has traveled the world to experience many cultures. Now, he works in a large corporation that celebrates diversity. My daughter followed in my footsteps to Eastern Michigan University which is a wonderful diverse community. She is striving to realize her dream in the medical field at the University of Michigan Hospital. As a designer, I have had the opportunity to work for and with several wonderful companies and people. Graphic design is a great profession that includes persons from all walks of life, and it has been my pleasure to be a part of such a welcoming and accepting group of professionals. In my role as adjunct faculty at the Art Institute of Michigan, I totally immersed myself in the core values of diversity and inclusive where students and faculty truly flourished. And, teaching Chinese children English online was an amazing connection to young people, their families, and the blending of two languages/best practices.

Currently, I am leading a small team comprised of members of the media group where I serve as the lead designer to develop a strategy to deliver a broader scope of diverse coverage within our media products. The impetus of this effort came from a suggestion I made to the media team during the pandemic when we were tasked to make suggestions to improve our overall product(s) performance in line with our company goals and strategies. Our company is a non-profit supporting manufacturing globally. This idea was well received, and we were encouraged to form a team. We have covered many more diverse topics and people within our two main magazine publications and other media avenues over the past couple of years and are working to implement regular columns/features/publications/podcasts/webinars that focus primarily on diversity within the manufacturing industry and possibly other business sectors.