

Despite having a strong interest in mathematics since high school, it was not until my second year in college that my soil mechanics instructor told me that mathematics is an educational degree and that I should pursue a career in math. As a member of an underrepresented group in my undergraduate studies, I suffered from social isolation and felt excluded from professional opportunities. These experiences have inspired my commitment to improve diversity and equity in STEM.

I have been involved with the **Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics (SIAM) Student Chapter** at the University of Utah (UU) since 2018, where I served as **president** from 2018 to 2020. Our chapter initiated and hosted the first **SIAM Wasatch Student Chapters Conference** that brought together students and faculty members with broad interests in fields associated with applied mathematics from Wasatch universities, including Brigham Young University, Utah State University, and Utah Valley University. The goal is to **foster a sense of community** and to provide a platform for interdisciplinary interaction among STEM members in the Wasatch Front.

I am currently the **Speaker Series co-chair** for the **Association for Women in Mathematics (AWM) Student Chapter** at the UU. The AWM and AWM-RTG speaker series bring two **mathematicians from underrepresented groups** every semester to visit the UU mathematics department and **share their research and career experiences**. Since we are remote this year, all the visits will be occurring over Zoom and we decided to **extend our invitation to other colleges and universities in Utah**. I believe this is a great opportunity for all students of the mathematics department to learn about how underrepresented mathematicians find their career and their field of research, especially for student organizations who lack financial and staff resources to host a speaker series.

Despite being a **first-generation student**, I am fortunate enough to be mentored by faculty members who provide all the support and guidance I need to succeed along my career path. This has **cultivated my passion in giving back to the student community** and I have **participated in several mentoring programs for undergraduate and graduate students**: (1) *Peer-mentoring program*, where I am paired with first-year graduate students to support them during their first years of graduate school, (2) *AWM mentoring program*, where I am paired with undergraduate students to discuss semester and future career choices; (3) *ACCESS and undergraduate research programs*, where I mentored two undergraduate students on year long projects; and (4) *Directed reading program*, where I mentored an undergraduate student on an independent reading course on advanced math topics. ACCESS is a program in the College of Science that supports the success of women in science and mathematics and welcomes all students who are committed to advancing gender equality in STEM fields, whether it be in academia or industry.

I am **passionate about sharing my career experience and increasing participation in STEM fields for younger students who experience stereotype threat since early childhood**. I volunteered to speak to students from East High School on **how I overcame cultural barriers** while pursuing a degree in mathematics, and assisted on an AWM-led workshop where we engaged K–8th grade students in a fun discussion on mathematical reasoning to demonstrate that learning mathematics can be an enjoyable experience. I also led a Math Circle session on the Tower of Hanoi puzzle to teachers from Taylorsville High School.