

## **Statement of Contributions to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion**

My commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion has been shaped by concrete experiences throughout my career in film and education. As an instructor at NYU Tisch's summer filmmakers workshop, I had the privilege of teaching young artists from diverse backgrounds, including scholarship students who might otherwise not have had access to high-level film education. This experience reinforced my belief that creating pathways to creative education is crucial for developing a more inclusive media landscape.

In my years as a chief lighting technician on productions like "The Vigil" and numerous national TV commercials, I actively worked to address gender disparity in film lighting departments. I prioritized hiring women and trans technicians in what has traditionally been a male-dominated field, contributing to broader representation in technical production roles.

Most recently, I served as producer and cinematographer on "Saffron Robe," a documentary filmed in rural Laos that highlights a Buddhist academy whose mission is to provide education to economically disadvantaged students. This project exemplifies my commitment to amplifying overlooked voices and perspectives through visual storytelling.

At VCU, I aim to bring this same dedication to inclusive storytelling and mentorship, helping to create content that authentically represents the university's diverse community while providing opportunities for students from all backgrounds to engage with visual media production.