Statement Example 1 –

I remember my first meeting with #### University’s coordinator for chemistry outreach. My idea was to develop an outreach program that would engage high school students in atmospheric chemistry, having students spend a day on the #### University campus participating in studies of indoor and outdoor air quality using portable gas analyzers and aerosol particle collectors. One of the questions the coordinator asked during that meeting was which schools to contact? Knowing that nearby #### Junior/Senior High School students had plentiful opportunities to engage with the university, I told him we should diversify and invite students from different socioeconomic and historically under-represented regions in the state of ####. I think this exemplifies my commitment to engage and advance community interest in the sciences. At UC San Diego, I will continue engaging students through similar programs and be an advocate for diversity in the chemical sciences.

My time as a graduate student and postdoctoral researcher provided a well-rounded experience working with wonderful people from all backgrounds, a leap from the small, mostly white southern town outside of ####, where I grew up. I thrived living and working in one of the most culturally diverse areas in the United States while pursuing my doctorate at #### University. At #### I was a mentor for three years for freshmen and sophomore female students as part of the Women in Science and Engineering (WSE) program and served as the lead instructor for the #### atmospheric science section, which was developed to foster underrepresented minority middle and high school student interest in atmospheric science. As founder of #### atmospheric chemistry outreach program on indoor and outdoor air quality and current mentor of three outstanding female graduate student researchers, one Hispanic and another with diagnosed narcolepsy, and a post-doctoral researcher from ####, I have learned how to effectively communicate with students from different educational backgrounds, abilities/disabilities, and from backgrounds that are very different from my own.

At UC San Diego, I will actively seek opportunities in research, the classroom, and across campus to enhance diversity and opportunity for individuals from historically under-represented backgrounds. Specifically, I will seek scholarship and fellowship opportunities for minority students in my lab and in the department, for example, encouraging and working with students on applications for the Minorities Striving and Pursuing Higher Degrees of Success (MS PHD’S) in Earth System Science and the McNair Scholars Program. I plan to become an affiliate of the Cross Cultural Center at UC San Diego, to build connections and cultivate cultural diversity in the chemical sciences. I will regularly involve undergraduate and high school student interns in my research through programs such as WSE and serve as a mentor for programs already in place at UC San Diego, including the Initiative for Maximizing Student Development (IMSD) and Summer Training Academy for Research in the Sciences (STARS) program.

I believe scientific communication is key and connections with people and institutions beyond our borders is just as important for a sustainable and prosperous research program. One area that I think needs vast improvement in the University setting is in the development of a free on campus resource where English as second language (ESL) researchers can bring their manuscripts for copyediting and substantive editing services. Having experience as a freelance contract editor for an international scientific editing service, I have helped numerous international researchers share their science in English as first language journals. Given my experience, I would be excited to start such a service at UC San Diego, with the mission to provide on-campus international researchers an inviting space to share their manuscripts and advance their science through communication in leading English as first language scientific journals. I believe diversity inclusion in the classroom and research laboratory is critical for academic and research success. At UC San Diego, I will work with students and faculty regardless of their race, ethnicity, gender, age, religion, language, abilities/disabilities, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, or country of origin. As long as students and faculty are committed to and engaged in the learning environment and promote the ideals for a diverse workplace, my philosophy is that all students should be given equal opportunity. At UC San Diego I will uphold these ideals and lead by example through outreach, promoting international scientific communication, and leading and participating in programs that advance women and minority representation in the chemical sciences.