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Commitment to Diversity

As a naturalized citizen of the United States, I have been lucky enough to experience the United States of America as a place of cultural inclusion and acceptance. I have been fortunate to experience privileges of race, gender and sexuality and thus feel an increased responsibility to create a similar learning environment. I strive for understanding and open-mindedness towards the various difficulties faced by students.

A particular issue I have noticed, as an active participant in the brass world, is that different levels of expectations and protocol are often used in teaching male and female students. While this can manifest in even seemingly mild ways such as being more informal with members of one gender over another, I believe that this erodes the trust needed to run a great studio. Because of this, I have made a concerted effort to dismantle my own inherent biases and treat every student with the equal respect and understanding.

My personal experiences of living in Switzerland and Thailand have helped me to become more sensitive to the pressures and isolations that some students may face. I believe that patience, kindness and understanding are keys to creating a thriving and diverse community. In my daily interactions with students at University of Denver, I will strive to make that a hallmark of my studio.

Because of my past experiences I see diversity and inclusion as a way of uplifting every member of the community. I believe that the best way to achieve excellence is through creating inclusive environments. The contemporary world we live in is not always particularly inclusive, especially in light of the current political climate and growing immigration debate. However, if given the opportunity to serve as Assistant Professor of Horn at University of Denver, I will work towards creating and maintaining a space where all students, regardless of race, gender, nationality, sexuality, or religion are supported equally.