

I personally understand that equality and inclusion is important because of my experiences in life. First, I live in a small native Alaskan village. Second, my father, grandfather, and I are all Alutiiq. Finally, I was diagnosed with Autism when I was younger. All of these things help me to understand the challenges that people of different races or have disabilities must face.

I want to earn my bachelor's degree in computer science so I can, hopefully, get a job in that field. I wish to continue to live in my Native Alaskan community upon successful completion of my degree program. Where I live, there are people that program computers as a hobby, but are not trained in computer programming, which means what I am going into will be unique and a resource for my community. I will be the only one with a computer science degree in my village. Most people here make their living from commercial fishing and have not been trained in technology. I am hoping that by going into computer science, I will help my community by being a service in technological knowledge. I will be able to bring a different perspective to computer science because of where I live.

I have read that people who go into computer science make a good living. This will enable me to continue to live in my village, and maybe even build my own house here. Our community has been having fishing crises here. In 2018 and 2020, we were not able to commercial fish at all. In 2019 and 2021, we only fished a part of the season. If the fishing crisis continues, I may end up working with computer science full time. I do hope that my career of computer science will help my small community by allowing me to continue to be part of the community, and I would like to create new software for my village and my region. One example of what is possible is that

another village in my region called Perryville created an Alutiiq language app a couple years ago and published it. This app was created to preserve our language before it becomes extinct. These are the kinds of programs that people of different cultures can create when they are included in the technology field.

Because I have Autism, I used to struggle with fitting in or understanding what other people my age preferred that was different from me. I remember that because of my disability, I would have a harder time paying attention, which actually is something I still struggle with this day. I had trouble adapting to new things as I grew up and that I would just be different from my peers, for instance, I use my phone less than many others who are my age. I was able to finish high school English and Math while I was still a sophomore because even though I have Autism, it did help me want to increase my knowledge. I was able to learn different skills and coping mechanisms than other students, and once I did that, I was able to succeed academically. It is important for people with different disabilities to be trained in computer science because they can see problems that others do not notice and write programs to solve those problems.

It is important to have many different viewpoints in the computer science field because we can see the world differently than others. That can be beneficial because it may allow us to see certain things which the average person might not see. Different thoughts and viewpoints about the world can easily allow people to do different things with computer science. It can easily drive them into writing code that is different from people that do not have disabilities or are already largely represented in computer science. This can actually lead to the creation of

entirely different software for computers and smart devices that can be completely new from what we have now. Equality and inclusion in computer science is very important because those different people can see different problems and can then write code to fix those problems. I am able to understand this because of my experiences in life. Since I am native Alaskan and have the disability, Autism, I would be able to make code for programs that would be able to help others that also have disabilities like Autism, physical disabilities, or people that are a underrepresented race. I look forward to hearing from you in the future.