The importance of diversity in the STEM workforce has been established in recent studies demonstrating diverse groups can outperform homogenous high-ability problem solvers. However, there is still a lack of diversity in the STEM workforce with participation by underrepresented groups lagging in comparison to their representation in the US population. This is partly due to low enrollment and retention of underrepresented groups in STEM graduate programs.

My works aims to both increase enrollment of underrepresented groups in STEM graduate programs as well as to increase their retention. To this end, I have participated in and developed several initiatives towards achieving these aims. These initiatives include hosting a 2-week research program for middle school students from West Baltimore who are part of the University of Maryland CURE Scholars Programs. Additionally, I am a co-Director of the IMSD Meyerhoff Graduate Fellows Program. The goal of this program is to increase the retention of underrepresented minorities in STEM by providing a welcoming community, providing programming to help manage the unique challenges they face in graduate school, and provide information on career opportunities in STEM.