**Application Statements**

**Description**: Our overall mission is to enhance the diversity of the health-related research workforce by increasing the interests, skills, and competitiveness of undergraduate students to pursue research-focused higher degree programs (e.g., Ph.D. or M.D./Ph.D.). We aim to create engaging and supportive spaces where students can safely represent their different backgrounds and perspectives and apply their unique viewpoint to support their community through research.

**Instructions**: Use these statements to share who you are with the review committee! The online platform, InfoReady, will ask that you type in your answers as part of your application. Utilize this form to prepare your written statements ahead of time so you can copy and paste them into InfoReady. The application will require you to answer each of the prompts below:

1. Briefly describe your long-term career plans in 1-3 sentences.
2. Please describe any prior research-related experience and/or the areas of research you are curious or passionate about. Research-related experience can include mentor/professor-directed research or participation in science fairs or clubs, or any other activity (e.g., class) that required data collection and analysis. Please describe the project(s) and your contribution to it (them). Please note that having such prior experience is not a requirement for possible engagement in the program. (250 words maximum)
3. Being successful in a research environment requires one to be persistent when challenges arise. Please give an example of a challenging situation or hardship you’ve experienced. In addition, describe how your persistence allowed you to make academic progress in the face of these challenges. (250 words maximum)
4. We believe that everyone "brings something to the table" from their own personal experiences that can be used to benefit and strengthen our communities. Please describe how you might bring diversity into our program (i.e., what you would bring to the table). (250 words maximum)

*Additional Tips:*

* Be yourself. This should tell your story to the committee. What about you is different? What are you passionate about?
* Diversity is broad – reflect on your experiences and passions. Describe any experiences you have living/working with a diverse community that influenced your passion for research.
* Diversity is any part of your identity that distinguishes you from others and shows your value for diversity.
* What are some things that make my perspective diverse? These are only a few examples. Various communities you are a part of (e.g., LGBTQIA+), gender, ability, family, background, disability (physical/mental), underrepresented racial & ethnic groups, disadvantaged backgrounds (homeless, foster care, 1st generation college student), received federal/government funding (WIC, Pell grants, free lunch program, etc.). Want to learn more? [Visit NIH’s page: Diversity Matters](https://extramural-diversity.nih.gov/diversity-matters).
* Not very familiar with research yet, that is ok! Learn more here: [What is Research?](https://www.csulb.edu/building-infrastructure-leading-to-diversity/what-research)
* Provide the review committee with insight into what motivates you.
* Proofread, proofread, proofread! Check for grammar, clarity, spelling, etc. Use spell check in word, G*rammarly, read it from the bottom up, and/or ask someone to review.*

**INSTRUCTIONS FOR SUBMISSION**

1. This is not a template that you will be required to upload.
2. You will be prompted to answer each of the 4 prompts above as part of your online application in the InfoReady platform.