

Motivational letter

I am writing to express my enthusiastic interest in participating in the Women and Minorities in Forestry STEM Disciplines to Diversify Forest Industry Workforce (WAMSFOR) mentorship program. As a passionate advocate for diversity and inclusion in STEM fields, particularly within forestry, I am deeply inspired by WAMSFOR's mission to cultivate a more representative and empowered workforce in the forest industry.

Due to my upbringing in a culture that values living in peace with the natural world, I became very interested in environmental preservation and sustainable natural resource management. As a woman in forestry, I have encountered firsthand the challenges and underrepresentation that exist within the field. I faced socio-cultural barriers to earn my undergraduate degree in forestry due to gender stereotypes in my country of origin. Currently, I am pursuing a graduate degree in Forest Resource Management in the U.S. Being an international female student and future workforce member in the forest sector presents another set of challenges given the current diversity gap. However, rather than viewing these obstacles as deterrents, I see them as opportunities for growth and transformation.

In my professional endeavors, being part of an underrepresented group has motivated me to be a proactive advocate for diversity and inclusion in this field. For this reason, I decided to dedicate my graduate studies to the exploration of the workforce dynamics in the U.S. Forest and wood product sector. By conducting this research project, I will be collaborating in the formulation of a diversity, equity, and inclusion strategy that fosters a more inclusive workplace. By providing support, guidance, and encouragement to aspiring women and minorities in STEM, we can pave the way for a brighter and more diverse future in the forest industry.

In conclusion, I am wholeheartedly committed to advancing the goals of WAMSFOR and am eager to embark on this transformative journey alongside fellow advocates and mentors. Thank you for considering my application, and I look forward to the opportunity to contribute to and benefit from this invaluable program.