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## TEACHING STATEMENT

I teach courses that are aligned with my research interests (studying technology use in Africa) and professional experiences (formerly working as an industrial designer and as a research intern at Microsoft Research and Intel). At Michigan State University (MSU), I have primarily taught *Creating Human-Centered Technology* (MI450), a capstone course that introduces junior and senior-level students to human-centered design (HCD) a way of thinking that places the people—you are trying to serve—at the center of the design process. Weekly course sessions focus on design, on introducing students to user research methods, on critical design skills (e.g., sketching, building and evaluating prototypes), and on embracing ambiguity and failure when solving problems.

As a result of changes in the field, the course has evolved to include new modules (e.g., speculative design and ethics) and new topics for discussion (e.g., What values do technology designs consciously or unconsciously promote?; What strategies can be used to identify and address biases in algorithms and data used in HCI design? How can HCI design principles be adapted to ensure equitable access for people from diverse racial backgrounds?). As a response to students' feedback, I also devote a class to discussing how to find careers in HCD and/or how to pursue advanced degrees in the field. My former students are now working at Facebook, Inc., and others are pursuing graduate degrees in HCD-related disciplines at Cornell University, Indiana University, Savannah College of Art and Design, University of Michigan, and the University of Washington. I am an outstanding teacher, and my SIRS scores (teaching evaluations) are regularly between 1-2 (with 1 being the highest rating). Former students frequently contact me to tell me how the skills learned in MI450 have helped them to advance in their careers.

I have also created and taught innovative new courses, notably *Design for Social Development* (MI488), a studio-style course where students collaboratively develop technologies for populations in Sub-Saharan Africa (as described in my NSF CAREER grant proposal). I have taught a condensed version of this class to computer science students at Kenya's Jomo Kenyatta University and Egerton University. Generous support from Google Research enables me to teach this course in Kenya, and I recently secured a \$150,000 grant from the *Mozilla Foundation's Responsible Computing Program* to redesign this course at MSU. Collaborating with Dr. Jonathan Choti from MSU's Department of Linguistics, Language, and Cultures, we plan to revamp this course to center African perspectives, encouraging students to learn how African history, Black Feminist Studies, Decolonial Theory, ethics, and multilingualism can be applied to technology design, including the domains of data and AI. This award will also support the development and implementation of a novel *Technologists-In-Residence* program (TIR). Paid participants in this program will come from the Computer Science Department at Egerton University. These six students will serve as mentors, evaluate students' projects, and contribute a cross-cultural perspective to the course. The program will also provide these students with a valuable professional development opportunity and help to diversify perspectives in computing.

Outside of the classroom, I meet weekly with students interested in HCI as a member of the Behavior, Information, Technology Lab (BITLab), and with the graduate students I advise. I also serve on graduate committees in Anthropology and Agricultural, Food, and Resource Economics (AFRE). My approach to advising is a collaborative one; I invest a significant amount of time to work with students to identify projects of mutual interest. Last year, my student—Hope Chidziwisano—graduated with his Ph.D. in Information and Media. Hope received a Google Ph.D. Fellowship to support his research at MSU. He completed a Presidential Postdoctoral Fellow at Carnegie Mellon University's (CMU) Human-Computer Interaction Institute and is currently an Assistant Professor at University of Tennessee, Knoxville's School of Information Sciences.

Whether in a class or individually, I am dedicated to teaching students how to collaborate across disciplines, how to apply the human-centered design process to address global problems, and how to be effective researchers.