The Dr. James King Jr. Student Diversity Award

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How do you see Caltech growing as it relates to inclusion and diversity?
I am excited for Caltech to lead on issues relating to diversity, equity, and inclusion. There is progress to be made, but I am hopeful that with leadership and cooperation among students, faculty, and staff, Caltech can set an example for universities and research institutions everywhere.

What does receiving this award mean to you?
During 2020 and 2021, Asian Americans faced ‘dual’ pandemics - our communities were affected by both the actual COVID-19 pandemic, and hate crimes against Asians and Asian Americans in response. Caltech students were just as affected; some reported being spit at, having eggs thrown at them, and being told to “Go back to China” all in the Pasadena area. At times, it was difficult to work on these issues through Caltech APIDA+ while balancing my PhD work. Receiving this award is a welcome acknowledgment of the work that myself and others did on these issues over the past year, as well as my work as a mentor for Caltech’s inaugural GSRI program. It inspires me to keep engaged in issues relating to diversity, equity, and inclusion as I move forward in my career, and that (just as in research) sometimes the most meaningful work is also the most difficult.