Celebreation of Excellence

2021 COMPASS Outstanding Mentee Award

Athena Kolli
Undergraduate Student

How do you see Caltech growing as it relates to inclusion and diversity?
As a freshman at Caltech this year, I have not been able to experience Caltech on campus, but even in the virtual setting I can see how highly the student body regards inclusion and diversity. I have met so many welcoming and accepting frosh and upperclassmen, who have really supported me and each other during this past year. It warms my heart and inspires me to see so many members of the Caltech community prioritizing making their peers feel comfortable to express themselves and grow into the people that they hope to be.

What does receiving this award mean to you?
Personal development is something that has always been very important to me, and being recognized for my efforts in this area is a great honor. I am really grateful to have been given the opportunity to get to know my mentor, Melissa, as she has provided me with amazing advice which has helped me learn and grow as a scholar over the course of my freshman year. Recieving this award has really encouraged me to continue to prioritize personal development and learn from all the amazing resources that Caltech has to offer. I hope to be able to pay it forward in the Caltech community once I gain more experience that I can share.