

comm·unity

SPRING 2022

Timmy Kwong Named Social Impact Awards Finalist for Undergraduate Student of the Year by PR News



by Calista Baker

Communication student Timmy Kwong has been nominated as a Social Impact Awards Finalist by PR News. Kwong is a junior concentrating in public relations and serves as the vice president of Diversity and Inclusion at the Public Relations Student Society of America (PRSSA) Manhattan College chapter. The award recognizes undergraduate students who advocate for diversity, equity, and inclusion on their campus and allows the communication industry to be more aware of the need for diversity and inclusion in the industry. Public relations professor Arshia Anwer nominated Kwong for this award because of his involvement with diversity and inclusion in PRSSA. In addition to the nomination, Kwong had to submit an application for the award, with which Anwer also assisted.

“Genuinely thanks [to] Dr. Anwer because without her nomination it would be impossible to get this award,” Kwong said. “I’m representing Manhattan College and the communication department so the award is not only for me but also helping the community to be more aware of this.”

One of the events that Kwong has put together for PRSSA in his capacity as vice president of Diversity and Inclusion explores empowering women to negotiate salaries. He invited his career mentor, Alexis Montagano, a Manhattan College alum, to speak about diversity and equality within the hiring process. Since there is a gender bias towards men in the workplace, educating women about how to ask for and earn the salary that they deserve is a crucial aspect of creating inclusion. Kwong invited Montagano to speak about her position in human resources at CitiBank, and how she employs diversity, equity, and inclusion to combat discrimination and advocate for equal pay.

“Our school is not a big school... it doesn’t have many diversity and inclusion based clubs or societies around campus, so it’s important for Comm students, or PR students, to understand that there is a lack of diversity in [these areas],” Kwong says.

PR News will host an awards ceremony from April 20-21 at the Ritz Carlton, Pentagon City for the finalists. Kwong is currently speaking with Communication department faculty about his plans to attend the ceremony. Kwong is one of five students nominated for the undergraduate award in the Diversity Leaders category. The Social Impact Awards honor communicators who use their platforms for the betterment of their communities and are helping to create a diverse, equitable future within the communication industry. Other categories include Pioneer Awards and Diversity Team awards, with nominations for leading public relations companies and professionals.

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT OF THE YEAR

FINALISTS:



Catalina Santana Hernandez
UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA



Isabelle Fama, Outstanding Undergraduate Student
BOSTON UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF COMMUNICATION



Jali Griesbach, Outstanding Undergraduate Student
BOSTON UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF COMMUNICATION



Timmy Kwong
MANHATTAN COLLEGE



Zane Landin
CALIFORNIA STATE POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY, POMONA