



## *Committee of 100*

### ***Open Letter from Committee of 100 President Zhengyu Huang***

Started three years ago under the United States Department of Justice, the China Initiative has ushered in heightened suspicions about scientific collaboration with China. For most American research institutions, scientific talent from around the world and global exchange are fundamental to their continued excellence. How institutions educate, monitor and address issues related to disclosures and potential misconduct have varied widely. Amidst these uncertainties, American scientists, especially scientists of Chinese descent, have moved to limit collaboration with China out of fear that they too will be implicated. This forms the crux of the research and white paper before you.

Committee of 100 is pleased to present "*Racial Profiling Among Scientists of Chinese Descent and Consequences for the U.S. Scientific Community,*" jointly conducted by Committee of 100 and the University of Arizona's Dr. Jenny J. Lee, Professor in the Center for the Study of Higher Education at the College of Education and Xiaojie Li, Research Associate, also in the Center for the Study of Higher Education at the College of Education.

Committee of 100 and the University of Arizona administered a nationwide blind survey in the summer of 2021 to scientists of both Chinese and non-Chinese descent including faculty, postdocs, and graduate students at top U.S. colleges and universities. The final sample consisted of nearly 2,000 scientists across the country.

In the Chinese American community, there is an emerging phrase - "*researching while Chinese American*" - which refers to scientists of Chinese descent who are being suspected of spying for China simply because of their ethnicity and national origin. Universities are starting to speak up against this rising tide of suspicion and to push back against government overreach in the name of national security.

The China initiative is ruining the lives of innocent Americans and hurting America's ability to continue to lead in scientific research and innovation. As a society, we must all do our part to protect our national security, but not at the expense of our cherished civil liberties. As Americans, we all agree that we must protect U.S. research from any attempted espionage from any foreign actor, but our policies and rules need to be clear and transparent, and must never be based on ethnicity or national origin.

Please join me in exploring the topics discussed in this white paper as part of a larger conversation about race and ethnicity in our country and how together we can do our part in forging a better, stronger, and more secure America.

--Sincerely, Zhengyu Huang