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We are alumni who unequivocally support Stanford's Asian American Studies. Many of us fought for the establishment of an ethnic studies program at Stanford. Some of us are proud graduates with degrees or minors in Asian American Studies. Today, the alarming increase in COVID related anti-Asian harassment, hate crimes and violence underscores the critical need for Asian American Studies. The program allows students to engage in community based research that examines the systemic and structural racial inequities that result in the disproportionate impacts of pandemics like COVID on communities of color.

Asian American Studies provides a unique avenue for Stanford students to engage in social justice and participatory learning grounded in serving our communities. We know that Dr. Will Gow, an Asian American Studies lecturer for the past two years, has played an integral role in teaching the foundational Asian American Studies courses such as Introduction to Asian American History and Introduction to Asian American Studies.

Strong enrollment in the Introduction to Asian American Studies course, offered for the first time in ten years, speaks to the demand for these classes. An increase in the number of majors and minors reflects the potential for growth when courses are offered consistently and taught by committed and engaged faculty.

Students in the introductory classes describe the courses as transformative to their personal and intellectual growth and to their commitment to becoming the community engaged scholars and leaders Stanford encourages. We strongly believe continued support for courses and faculty who prepare students to address the inequities exposed by the COVID crisis is more critical than ever.

Moreover, the Introductory Asian American Studies courses are foundational to the major and minor and should be offered consistently and not contingent on hiring a lecturer on a year-to-year basis. To that end, we urge the University to create a full-time Asian American Studies lecturer position with a multi-year contract. In addition, hiring more faculty, lecturers and staff is the only way to ensure that a core set of classes is offered on an annual basis and a coherent curriculum developed that will provide stability and growth to Asian American Studies.

Signed,

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Signatures continued on next page

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CC:

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