

**ROBERT RODRIGUEZ DONOSO** (LATINO/A & LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES MAJOR, ART HISTORY & VISUAL ARTS MINOR) came to Oxy a bit surprised by a lack of diversity which was promised by the school. Thanks to some amazing mentors amongst the students and faculty of color, he has since come a long way in understanding systems of racism and oppression. He first began to serve the community as a sophomore by working closely with the Occidental Sexual Assault Coalition, in order to fight for better policies to protect survivors. As a Junior and Senior, he has been an advocate for students of color and queer students through his organizing with the Coalition at Oxy for Diversity and Equity (CODE). As president of La Raza Coalition, Bobby has created a more inclusive campus for Latin@ students. As a project manager for the Center for Gender Equity, Bobby has also made strides for a community more inclusive of queer students and women. He is happy to leave Oxy a better place than he found it, and is very excited to see all the future progress made by CODE activists.

**KERRY SAKIMOTO** (POLITICS MAJOR) has dedicated his time here at Oxy to the pursuit of intersectional social justice. In his sophomore year, he co-founded Asian Pacific Americans for Liberation (APAL) to create a counter space on campus for API students to discuss inter- and intraracial solidarity. Most recently, Kerry has spent the past year working to draft and implement the first Diversity and Equity Board for ASOC to increase institutional support for marginalized voices on campus. He has been fortunate to intern with Asian Americans Advancing Justice and the UCLA Downtown Labor center, hoping to one day go to law school to advocate with community organizing groups in the future.

A large, stylized green leaf graphic is positioned in the background, partially overlapping the text. The leaf has several lobes and a central vein, rendered in a light green color. It is oriented vertically, with the stem pointing towards the bottom right.

2015  
*Community  
Action Award  
Recipients*

## *About the Awardees*

**GRACE BENDER** (BIOLOGY MAJOR, UEP MINOR) hails from East Greenwich, Rhode Island. She is the current president of the ASOC Renewable Energy and Sustainability Fund (RESF) and is one of the co-founders of the Sustainable ReCycle program which diverts waste from the landfill during move-out at the end of the year. Grace has served as an Oxy Green Tour Guide for three years, co-facilitated the UEP 246 Campus Greening class and was involved in a summer Undergraduate Research Project that culminated in the hiring of Oxy's first Sustainability Coordinator. As the Resident Advisor of the Food Justice House, Grace has worked with students to develop a thriving garden and explore the breadth and depth of food issues and opportunities in Los Angeles. Grace hopes to pursue a career in Sustainability Management or at the intersection of social work and connection with nature. She is immensely grateful to her family, professors, many members of Facilities and Campus Dining departments and REHS, the other members of RESF and friends for supporting these programs and making for an incredible four years at Oxy.

**SAMARAH JACKSON** (POLITICS MAJOR, PHILOSOPHY MINOR) has shown great dedication to creating a more equitable and inclusive community at Occidental and beyond in various leadership roles. Through her positions as a Resident Advisor in the Multicultural Hall, a Programming Assistant in the Intercultural Community Center, a proud member of the Coalition at Oxy for Diversity and Equity (CODE), and the President of Occidental's Black Student Alliance, Samarah has worked within administrative and student-centered spaces to promote critical engagement with issues of identity and multiculturalism. Samarah's aspirations lie in continuing the social justice-oriented work that she was introduced to at Occidental in the private, non-profit and public sectors. She plans to better inform these pursuits through studying public policy and law in the near future.

**JULIA KINGSLEY** (UEP MAJOR) is originally from the small seaside town of Marblehead, MA. She has always maintained a deep passion for the environment and equity, which has translated into her academic and extracurricular interests at Oxy. Julia has been involved in funding sustainable projects on campus through the ASOC Renewable Energy and Sustainability Fund and helped create the new position of a VP of Sustainability in ASOC Senate. Her research abroad focused on the sustainability of renewable energy projects in developing counties, and she was funded by the Undergraduate Research Center to attend the People's Climate March. Julia recently presented to the Board of Trustees on the importance of divesting

from Fossil Fuels and she organized this year's Earth Week events. She is currently working to implement a printing quota for the Occidental community in order to reduce paper use. Julia believes policy is the strongest way to fight back against environmental injustices and plans to pursue the career in policy she began at Occidental. The grounded and hands-on approach of UEP has laid the groundwork for Julia to affect change for the future.

**LUCIA MARTINEZ** (LATINO/A & LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES MAJOR, POLITICS MINOR), originally from Albuquerque, New Mexico, is a Civic Opportunities Initiative Network Scholar. In her first year at Occidental she began organizing around issues of economic justice with Youth Coalition for Community Action and 99 Rise. She participated in the Intergroup Dialogue Program, which provided her with the critical hope to work for change at Oxy. In her second year, she became a program assistant at the Intercultural Community Center, was the Vice President of Latino Graduation, a member of Raza Coalition, and a supporting member of the Occidental Sexual Assault Coalition. In her third year, Lucia began organizing with the Coalition at Oxy for Diversity and Equity (CODE), in order to make Oxy a more safe and equitable space for students of color. She has spent the past year continuing her work with CODE, as well as serving as a Peer Research Advisor at the Center for Digital Liberal Arts. She would like to thank her mother, Roberta Rael, for instilling in her a love of social justice.

**MADELEINE RESCH** (UEP MAJOR) from Chicago, has spent her time at Occidental exploring her values of equity, justice, and community by engaging in activism on and off of campus. She joined Youth Coalition for Community Action her first semester, was a part of the Title IX Complaint through OSAC her sophomore year, organized with the Coalition at Oxy for Diversity and Equity (CODE) her junior and senior years, and fought for the creation of the Diversity and Equity Board her senior year. Maddie was a member of the Sustainability Fund for nearly four years and programmed events on campus around issues of social justice, difference, identity, and spirituality through her jobs at both the ICC and ORSL. She participated in the Values and Vocations Fellowship twice and gained a sense of place in Los Angeles through organizing internships at the The LA County Fed, ACCE, and The Center for the Working Poor. Maddie is inspired by the next generation of Oxy student activists and knows that they will do incredible work to continue to challenge the white supremacist, patriarchal capitalism of this institution and to hold the administration accountable to the College's mission of multiculturalism and its pillars of equity and excellence.