



DEVELOPING THE NEXT
GENERATION OF DIVERSE
LEADERS

CLASS OF 2013 ACADEMY SUMMER ASSOCIATES



Left to Right: Jose Pablo Hernandez, Denisse Rojas, Vincent Raboteau, Sydney Céspedes, Jose Antonio Perez, Sydney Fang, Alberto Avalos, Reynold Graham, Allison Reed, Brian Kim, and Asia Womack



Alberto Avalos

Claiming Our Democracy

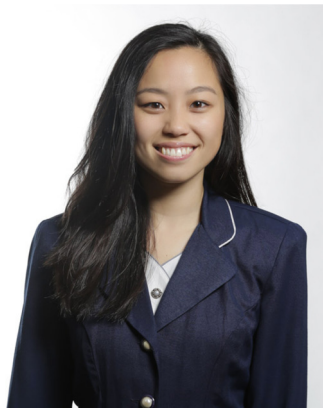
Alberto grew up in the Boyle Heights and South Gate neighborhoods of Los Angeles, California. He recently received his BA in Political Science from the University of California, Santa Barbara. While at UCSB, he began organizing around multiple issues impacting low-income communities and communities of color in Santa Barbara. As the Chair of Carnales in Aztlan, he focused on empowering the Latino community. Alberto then began his political career as an intern for Congresswoman Lois Capps and later served as the Field Director of the Emanuel Pleitez for Los Angeles Mayor Campaign and subsequently a Lead Organizer in the Eric Garcetti for Los Angeles Mayor Campaign. Recently, Alberto has begun consulting on a Student Engagement project at his high school alma mater and developed a multi-pronged strategy to increase college attendance. As a Summer Associate, Alberto looks to expand his skill set in order to continue fighting alongside marginalized communities.



Sydney Céspedes

Economic Equity

Sydney is a native New Yorker currently attending UC Berkeley for her graduate degree in City and Regional Planning with a concentration in Housing, Community and Economic Development. She earned her BA in Political Science and a minor in Urban Studies at Hunter College of the City University of New York. Before attending graduate school, she worked at the Urban Justice Center engaged in administrative court advocacy for recipients of public benefits. Sydney is committed to issues of social justice and racial equity and believes in community-engaged research and participatory planning as a method to achieve these ends.



Sydney Fang

Bridges to Health

Sydney is a native of the Bay Area and graduated in 2012 from the University of California, Berkeley with a degree in Public Health and a minor in Public Policy. Sydney's commitment to social justice and activism stems from her experiences as the daughter of immigrant parents. She has long worked with multicultural coalitions at UCB, including the *bridges* Multicultural Resource Center and as a student senator representing the and Cal Students for Equal Rights and a Valid Education (CalSERVE) coalition. Sydney also worked organizing monolingual Chinese home care workers, served on the City of Berkeley Community Health Commission and was a 2012 Public Policy International Affairs (PPIA) Fellow at UCB. As a Summer Associate, she is excited to take a deliberate approach to promoting health equity by including underrepresented voices in the decision-making process.



Reynold Graham

Executive

Reynold is originally from Englewood, New Jersey and recently received his BA in Sociology from Fordham University. While at Fordham, Reynold was passionately involved in various college access initiatives and played an integral role in the End the Silence campaign which secured revisions to Fordham's bias incident protocol. Reynold has served as a research assistant for New York State Senator Gustavo Rivera, a Public Policy and International Affairs (PPIA) Fellow and most recently, as a New York City Urban Fellow with the Department of Homeless Services. He plans to pursue a Masters in Public Policy, as he views progress for communities of color through the lens of social and economic policy. As a Summer Associate, Reynold intends to further develop his leadership skills in order to facilitate positive life outcomes for young men of color.



Jose Pablo Hernandez

Claiming Our Democracy

Jose is from Pomona, California and recently graduated from the University of California, Berkeley with a BA in Political Science. As an undergraduate student, Jose advocated for low-income and immigrant families while interning with the RAZA Recruitment and Retention Center, the International Institute of the Bay Area (IIBA), and the East Bay Community Law Center (EBCLC). Since graduating, Jose has been working as a community organizer with the Latino Roundtable of the San Gabriel and Pomona Valleys (LRT) to engage youth and parents around local issues and garner support for pro-immigrant legislation. He plans to pursue a joint degree in Law and Business and ultimately run for local government in the City of Pomona. As a Summer Associate, Jose looks forward to learning new progressive strategies that will help him empower disenfranchised communities.



Brian Kim

Consumer Protection

Brian grew up in Diamond Bar, California and received his BA degree from the University of California Los Angeles. He spent much of his undergraduate career researching genetic factors in obesity and working with underserved populations in the greater Los Angeles area. Upon graduation, he worked as a legal assistant for a boutique immigration law firm where he solidified his interest in pursuing a legal career. He currently attends UC Hastings and plans to work in the field of Intellectual Property as a patent prosecutor. Brian's experience has been focused on promoting diversity, serving low-income communities, and instilling a sense of self-efficacy in first-generation college students. As a Summer Associate, Brian looks forward to working to advance justice and equity while honing his substantive legal skills.



Jose Antonio Perez

Research

Antonio is originally from Guadalajara, Mexico and immigrated to Redwood City at the age of fifteen. He transferred from Cañada Community College to the University of California, Berkeley and recently graduated with a degree in History and a Public Policy minor. While at UC Berkeley, he lived at Casa, Greenlining's residential leadership development themed housing community. Antonio is a proud recipient of numerous scholarships, including the Smart Cookie Scholarship and the Berkeley Undergraduate Dream Act Aid. As a 2013 Dream Summer Intern, Antonio researched the diversity of the philanthropic sector at The Greenlining Institute. As a Center for Latino Policy Research sponsored Summer Associate, he hopes to continue to develop his skill set and become a stronger advocate for communities of color.



Vincent Raboteau

Consumer Protection

Vincent is originally from Galveston, Texas and grew up in Honolulu, Hawai'i. In 2010, Vincent graduated cum laude from the University of Hawai'i and is currently attending law school at the University of San Francisco. Prior to college, he worked as an aircraft mechanic for the Air Force stationed in Virginia. Vincent has been a longtime advocate for underserved communities, having volunteered with the Native Hawaiian Sovereignty Advocates and dedicated time in New Orleans' Lower 9th Ward. Vincent looks forward to learning how to effectively conduct community needs assessments in order to empower low income and communities of color. As a Summer Associate, he is committed to the development of his leadership and advocacy skills.



Allison Reed

Economic Equity

Allison is from St. Louis, Missouri and received a BA in Urban Studies with minors in French and Anthropology from Washington University, St. Louis. As a student, she was part of the John B. Ervin Scholars Program, which supports students committed to bringing diverse people together. Allison has interned with Civitas Associates/Active Citizen360, the American Civil Liberties Union of Eastern Missouri, and the St. Louis City Office of U.S. Congressman William Lacy Clay. Her senior thesis, "Eminent domain, Unrealized Redevelopment Projects, and Justice in U.S. City Planning," won the University's George Washington Carver Undergraduate Research Award. As a Summer Associate, Allison hopes to be a more effective facilitator of inclusive social change and cross-community dialogue and to deepen her knowledge of distributive justice and financial empowerment in distressed urban contexts.



Denisse Rojas

Bridges to Health

Denisse is from Fremont, California and graduated with a BA in Integrative Biology and Sociology from University of California, Berkeley. While at UCB, she cofounded Pre-Health Dreamers, an organization that helps undocumented students pursue careers in health and science. She is dedicated to supporting other undocumented students find mentorship, resources, and academic opportunities. She currently mentors 1st generation and low income community college students who are pursuing science careers. She believes that Pre-Health Dreamers will make a difference in the lives of undocumented youth and will help them realize their potential. As a Center for Latino Policy Research sponsored Summer Associate, her future goals include becoming a leader in the health field as a physician who advocates for the inclusion of all communities in higher education.



Asia Womack

Environmental Equity

Asia is originally from San Diego, California. She completed her undergraduate degree in Political Science at Spelman College and is now pursuing her law degree at UCLA School of Law. Asia currently specializes in Critical Race Studies and its application to public policy and business law. She has served as an elected student representative on the Student Bar Associate, the Diversity Action Committee, as well as an Executive Board Member of both the Student Bar Association and the UCLA Black Law Students Association. As a Summer Associate, Asia intends to further advance her passion for service and advocacy in order to increase community member access to legal services.