

# Manoa Youth Awardees & Runners Up 2015

Sponsor: Manoa Foundation

The **Manoa Youth Award** is an integral part of the Pamana Award event and is given to a Filipino American High School student (at the time of nomination) in New Mexico, between 14 to 18 years old. The award is given in the spirit of the late Manoa Alcantara Jojola, son of Dr. Dely Alcantara and Dr. Ted Jojola of the Manoa Foundation who has excelled in academics, community service and/or participated in activities to promote Filipino culture and who demonstrates pride in their culture through expressive and creative arts. The **awardee** receives a scholarship fund of \$500 and a plaque. Starting in 2009, the runners up receive a scholarship fund of \$200 and certificates of accomplishment.

In 2015, we honored three teenage members of the Filipino American Foundation of New Mexico (FAFNM) Cultural Dance Group, which has helped raise funds for the Filipino community and disaster relief funds in the Philippines.

## Manoa Youth Awardee: **Bianca Marie White**

**Bianca** is recognized for her continued dedication in dancing for the FAFNM Cultural Dance Group for more than 12 years. She is also the youngest choreographer of the group. She's the secretary of FAFNM Young Professional and Youth Committee. She's active in the school choir, Black Student Club, Eagle Earth Club and Best Buddy Club (working with students with disabilities). She received the 2015 Outstanding Asian Youth Award. She is the daughter of Jerry and Ligaya White and sister of Jami Abdullah.

## Manoa Youth Runners Up: **Angelica and Gabriela Velez**

Angelica and Gabriela joined the Cultural Dance Group in 2013 and have performed in 35 shows. They co-founded a hip hop/street jazz dance group. They volunteered at their church as teacher's assistants and classroom leaders. They are honored not just for their creative talents and community services but also for their academic achievements at their school, Albuquerque Academy, with GPA's 4.2 and 4.0, respectively.

Angelica, a National Hispanic scholar, who just graduated, has danced with Albuquerque Academy Dance Group for 3 years where she also choreographed. She is the co-chair of the newly formed FAFNM Young Professional and Youth Committee.

Gabriela is a member of the Albuquerque Academy Chorus Group and Environmental Club that hosts an annual Clothing Swap and E-Waste events where they recycle lightly used clothing and electronics, respectively.

Angelica and Gabriela are the daughters of Lani and David Velez.

The list of past Manoa Awardees is in the List of Pamana Awardees.