

## **2015 USTA NorCal Champions of Character Recipients Named**

The USTA Northern California Diversity and Inclusion Committee named the 2014 recipients of the Champions of Character scholarships which support the Level One strategic priority of Diversity with a Multicultural focus. These four scholarships are offered to support and encourage multicultural participation among high school students entering college.



### **Scott Lucio - 2015 Arthur Ashe College Scholarship**

I began to play tennis at age 4. Always being the smallest in the group did not stop me from learning tennis and being the best I could be. Soon I was doing tournaments and learning about sportsmanship, focus and discipline. I also participated in USTA NorCal camps and other programs. My parents supported me throughout the whole thing.

This fall I start at Stanford University and will pursue a Bachelor's of Science with an emphasis on Environmental Science. My goal is to use my degree and address issues faced by Native American communities. I also plan to give back to tennis and teach young kids to play this great game.



### **Trevor Semuda - 2015 Althea Gibson College Scholarship**

I began playing tennis when I was 7 years old. I kept working hard to better and better every day. By age 9 I was one of the top 10 players in NorCal. I looked to Althea Gibson's career and how she handled adversity to guide me when things got tough. This also guided me when I made the varsity high school team where I became a three time BVAL winner.

I'm proud to say that I will be starting at Hawaii University this fall.

### **Taylor Chan - 2015 Michael Chang College Scholarship**

Tennis has literally changed my life and I am forever grateful. This game has helped me find myself and without tennis, I would still be that shy, quiet girl I was 5 years ago. I love tennis and will continue to play for the rest of my life, even when I am old and can only see the fuzzy outline of the green ball I have come to love.

In the fall I will be going to University of the Pacific (UOP) pursuing a Bachelor's in Pharmacy. I plan to play on the team for the USTA Tennis on Campus program.



### **Sandra Walle - 2015 Pancho Gonzalez College Scholarship**

The passion and dedication I placed into my sport is a quality I carry in every activity I partake in, and the passion and dedication I invest in showing others their potential is one of the strongest aspects I can bring to those around me. These are ideals that Pancho Gonzalez displayed through his aspiration of becoming one of the greatest tennis players of all time. As an ethnic minority, I too face obstacles and challenges in my pursuit of becoming a better athlete and of obtaining an education. Many members of my community come from immigrant families and they too face adversity.

With the support of my uncle, we created a nonprofit organization called The Family Sports Center. By combining training in athletics and academic support, we seek to teach students of primarily low income families, the self-confidence and self-discipline necessary to succeed and achieve their goals. Gonzalez's story of adversity is an inspiration to live a more fulfilling life and to always pursue your dreams and aspirations.

As I embark on my new journey at UC Berkeley and continue to grow as a person, I am prepared to take full advantage of every opportunity. With my developed leadership, diligence, and persistence, I am confident in the feasibility of my goals.