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Contact: Derek M. Doyle  
[doyle@congressionalaward.org](mailto:doyle@congressionalaward.org)  
(301) 676-3882

## Southern California Student Leaders Earn Congress' Award for Youth

**Yorba Linda, CA (November 14, 2019)** — On Saturday, November 9, 2019, The Congressional Award Southern California Ceremony presented by [Otsuka America Pharmaceutical, Inc.](https://www.otsuka.com) recognized nearly 200 student leaders for personal goal-setting and acts of citizenship.



Southern California's Congressional Awardees with U.S. Representatives Chu, Cisneros, and Porter at the Richard Nixon Presidential Library and Museum.

U.S. Representatives **Judy Chu** (CA-27), **Gil Cisneros** (CA-39), and **Katie Porter** (CA-45) presented the awards on behalf of the United States Congress at the Richard Nixon Presidential Library and Museum in Yorba Linda, California.

"It is my privilege to honor these incredible youth with The Congressional Award, the highest award for youth legislated and presented by the United States Congress," said **Congresswoman Judy Chu**. "In order to qualify, these honorees have volunteered their time to achieve goals in public service, personal development, physical fitness, and expedition/exploration. I have been so impressed by the creativity and care demonstrated by these young people. Their devotion to success is a benefit to our entire area, and an example to others. Congratulations!"

The event was made possible by **Otsuka America Pharmaceutical, Inc.**, who served as the Title Sponsor. On a journey of creativity and innovation for more than 95 years, the San Francisco based global pharmaceutical business has not only discovered and developed treatments for complex medical conditions – but made a deliberate effort to engage youth in local communities.

"I want to congratulate all 22 recipients of The Congressional Award for California's 39th district," said **Congressman Gil Cisneros**. "I am constantly impressed by the abundance of talented youth in our community. Their unwavering commitment to improving themselves and others around them is truly inspiring. The Congressional Award program has challenged our youth, and it is great to see CA-39 students answering the call and not only exceeding, but demonstrating that they will be future leaders. It was a privilege to recognize each of the awardees accomplishments and join their families in celebration."

The ceremony also borrowed the talents of FOX 5 San Diego's **Chris Murphy** as master of ceremonies.



After the ceremony, recipients and guests were able to tour the presidential library and museum.

"As a UC Irvine professor, I've witnessed up close and personal the tenacity and compassion of young people in our community," **Congresswoman Katie Porter** said. "I was proud to recognize the accomplishments of the 187 Congressional Award recipients from Southern California, and I look forward to seeing what they'll accomplish in the future."

California ranks number one in both the number of enrolled participants and Congressional Awards earned annually. The Golden State's 24<sup>th</sup>-53<sup>rd</sup> congressional districts have produced 7,431 awardees all-time. There are currently 6,535 participants pursuing the award in the region. The 187 Congressional Award Medalists honored this year contributed 38,749 hours of voluntary public service to their communities.

[Download the program](#) for event details and full recipient list.

### **About The Congressional Award**

The Congressional Award is the United States Congress' only charity and the highest honor bestowed upon a youth civilian through the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives. Established by Congress as a public-private partnership in 1979 under Public Law 96-114, the program recognizes initiative, service, and achievement in youth ages 13 ½ - 23. Learn more at [www.congressionalaward.org](http://www.congressionalaward.org).

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