**The 2014 Catherine Milton California AmeriCorps Member of the Year Award Winner – Kalyn Bocast**

Kalyn Bocast was born and raised in Chico CA. After completing the Butte College Connections Program with a 4.0 GPA her senior year of high school, she transferred to Humboldt State University in Arcata, CA. During her time of study, she joined the Natural Resources Club as well as the Club for the Campus Center for Appropriate Technology, and spent many weekends serving her community through volunteer projects. After graduating with a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Management and Protection she moved to Central America to promote environmental stewardship and gain further experience in her field of study. While there, she spent six months volunteering with Long Way Home, a non-profit in Guatemala dedicated to using sustainable solutions to promote education, employment, and environmental awareness. During her service there, she received an award for “excellent work ethic & group leadership.” She then traveled to Balgue, Nicaragua where she spent the duration of her year volunteering with Project Bona Fide, a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting food sovereignty both locally and regionally. After returning to the U.S., Kalyn joined the AmeriCorps Watershed Stewards Project. Over the course of her term as an AmeriCorps Service Member working with the California Conservation Corps, she created programs, spearheaded projects, and provided many opportunities for learning and service within her community. A highlight of her service was her creation, development, and direction of Creek Days, a three day watershed recovery fair for over 400 students and community members in Humboldt County. In addition, she planned and implemented a volunteer service project in the rural community of Briceland that focused on stabilizing the banks of a local watercourse. Furthermore, in conjunction with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Kalyn assisted in starting an extensive watershed restoration program at a local high school. With hopes to expand on the work of her year 20 service term, Kalyn has chosen to dedicate another year of service to the AmeriCorps Watershed Stewards Project and the California Conservation Corps.