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Portland Student Among 2021 International Young Eco-Hero Award Winners

Local Student Receives Top Honor for Contributions to Solving Environmental Problems

San Francisco – Luna Abadia, a 16 year-old from Portland, Oregon, is one of 25 young environmental activists from across the globe honored by Action For Nature (AFN) as a 2021 International Young Eco-Hero, an award that recognizes eco-conscious youth ages 8 to 16 who are taking crucial steps to solve tough environmental problems.

Winners of the International Young Eco-Hero Award are selected by a panel of independent judges, including experts in environmental science, biology, and education. Since 2003, Action For Nature has recognized more than 300 Eco-Heroes from over 30 countries and 25 U.S. states.

Luna won 3rd Place in the 15-16 year-old category for her Effective Climate Action Project.

Luna Abadia was concerned about climate change from a young age, and while studying abroad in Japan as a Rotary Youth Exchange Ambassador, she noticed differences in how people approached environmental issues and became aware that for a solution to be effective, it needed to be global. When she returned home, Luna decided to start the Effective Climate Action Project, which facilitates free, climate simulation workshops to inspire others to advocate for ambitious environmental action. These workshops utilize computer models designed by MIT and Climate Interactive to analyze how different climate solutions and policy measures – such as renewable energy, afforestation, industry electrification, and carbon pricing impact our current trajectory of global warming – allowing participants to see how their own ideas about how to solve climate change would affect aspects of Earth's climate system.

“Kids like Luna have shown that the next generation of leaders is here, and they are refusing to wait to solve the world's most pressing environmental challenges,” said Beryl Kay, president of Action For Nature, an international non-profit organization that encourages young people to nurture a love and respect for the Earth and to take personal action to improve the environment. “The projects that these young people created will not only have real, positive impacts on their communities, they will also help solve global climate challenges and inspire others – no matter what age – to consider what they can do to help.”

“For so long, our focus has been on the climate problem, not on climate solutions,” said Luna Abadia. “By equipping others with the tools to understand these systemic solutions – grounded in science, technology and policy – we can empower people to advocate for the changes our world needs.”

To read more about Luna's work, visit effectiveclimateaction.org.

To learn more about this year's International Young Eco-Hero Award winners, visit actionfornature.org/eco-hero-awards/2021-awards.

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Action For Nature (AFN) is an international non-profit organization based in San Francisco, California, that encourages young people to nurture a love and respect for Earth's natural resources and to take personal action to better their environments.