

**COMMENDATION OF MATILDA R. WILSON AWARD
TO DAISY ESCUTIA-PLAZA**

Recommendation

- 1. Division and Department:** Student Affairs & Diversity.
- 2. Introduction:** The Alfred G. and Matilda R. Wilson Awards are presented annually to two (2) deserving Oakland University seniors who have contributed as scholars, leaders and responsible citizens to the Oakland University community. First awarded in 1965, these honors were designated by Matilda R. Wilson, founder of Oakland University, and Durward B. Varner, Oakland's first chancellor, to recognize those students who not only have achieved academic excellence but also have made significant contributions to campus life and demonstrated interest in the social problems of our community and society. The resolution set forth below is submitted for consideration and approval in honor of Daisy Escutia-Plaza, recipient of the 2025 Matilda R. Wilson Award.
- 3. Previous Board Action:** The Board of Trustees recognizes the Matilda R. Wilson Award recipient for their outstanding achievements.
- 4. Budget Implications:** None.
- 5. Educational Implications:** The Matilda R. Wilson Award recipient exemplifies superior academic and co-curricular achievement by an undergraduate student. Their accomplishments reflect the highest University standards of scholarship, leadership, and citizenship and serve as an outstanding example for the entire campus community.
- 6. Personnel Implications:** None.
- 7. University Reviews/Approvals:** The 2025 Wilson and Human Relations Awards Committee reviews and interviews Matilda R. Wilson Award candidates and recommends nominees for final approval to the Senior Vice President for Student Affairs & Chief Diversity Officer and the President.
- 8. Recommendation:** It is recommended that the Board of Trustees adopt the following resolution:

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WHEREAS, Daisy Escutia-Plaza entered Oakland University as a student from Woodhaven High School in Woodhaven, MI to pursue a major in Biomedical Sciences in the College of Arts and Sciences; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Escutia-Plaza demonstrated academic excellence by maintaining a 3.91 grade point average; achieving Dean's List recognition for each of her semesters at OU; recipient of the 2023 Provost Undergraduate Research Award; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Escutia-Plaza demonstrated widespread campus leadership serving several pivotal student leadership roles, including President of The Hispanic American Leadership Organization (HALO), where she worked tirelessly to create an inclusive environment for Hispanic students, and a Peer Mentor for the Center of Multicultural Initiatives (CMI), consistently going above and beyond to support students from marginalized communities and fostering a sense of belonging at Oakland University; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Escutia-Plaza has excelled as an academic researcher, particularly with her work on Autism Spectrum Disorder, receiving national recognition and earning numerous awards, including the Distinction in Biomedical Sciences Award and the Thesis Competitive Grant; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Escutia-Plaza has been selected as the 2025 recipient of the Matilda R. Wilson Award given annually to a graduating senior who has maintained high academic standards, who has demonstrated extraordinary leadership capabilities and involvement in the Oakland University community, and who has expressed social concern; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees expresses its appreciation to Ms. Escutia-Plaza for her unwavering commitment to campus life at Oakland University; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees commends Daisy Escutia-Plaza for the quality of her leadership and extends to her its best wishes for continued success in all of her future endeavors.

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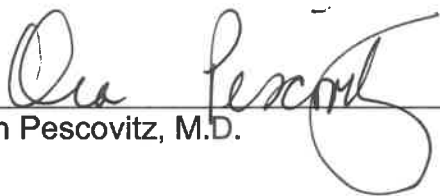
9. Attachments: None.

Submitted to the University President
on April 11, 2025 by



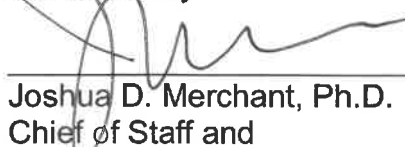
Glenn McIntosh
Senior Vice President for Student Affairs &
Chief Diversity Officer

Recommended on 4/4, 2025
to the Board for approval by



Ora Hirsch Pescovitz, M.D.
President

Reviewed by



Joshua D. Merchant, Ph.D.
Chief of Staff and
Secretary to the Board of Trustees