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## UCLA Chicano Studies Research Center Media Release

### For Immediate Use

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## Race disparities strongly persist among Academy Award actor nominees, study finds

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A study just released by the UCLA Chicano Studies Research Center shows that since 2002—which was heralded a “breakthrough year” for actors of color—Oscar-winning actors have almost always been white.

The study, titled “*Not Quite a Breakthrough: The Oscars and Actors of Color, 2002-2012*,” was conducted by Professor Russell K. Robinson and Su Li, Angela Makabali, and Kaitlyn Murphy, researchers at the Chief Justice Earl Warren Institute on Law and Social Policy, at the UC Berkeley School of Law.

While the 2012 slate of Oscar nominees includes two black actresses (Viola Davis, nominated for Best Actress, and Octavia Spencer, nominated for Best Supporting Actress) and one Latino (Demián Bichir, nominated for Best Actor), this is the most diverse list of nominees since the year 2002, when Halle Berry and Denzel Washington won Best Actress and Best Actor, respectively; Will Smith was a nominee for Best Actor; and Sidney Poitier received an honorary Lifetime Achievement Award.

Here are the major findings for the study for the 2002-2012 period:

- **All Best Actress winners since Halle Berry's 2002 victory have been white.**
- **No winner in any acting category during the last ten years has been Latino, Asian-American, or Native American.**
- **Oscar winners and nominees of color make fewer movies per year after their nominations than white peers.**
- **Oscar winners and nominees of color are more likely than white peers to work in television, which is lower status work.**
- **Oscar winners and nominees of color are less likely than their white peers to receive subsequent nominations.**

The report will be posted on the Chicano Studies Research Center [website](#) on Monday, February 27, 2012.

The **UCLA Chicano Studies Research Center** was established in 1969. Current research areas also include public health, education, economic security, and the arts.

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