



NMSU College Assistance Migrant Program

All About Discovery!™ – New Mexico State University

2015-2016 Newsletter

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<http://dept-wp.nmsu.edu/camp/>

Staff Reflections

NMSU CAMP looks forward to our *quinceañera* in 2017. We just completed fourteen academic years of serving farm-working students at NMSU. Seeing their transformations, from the first time they stepped into the CAMP office to that final walk across the graduation platform and receiving their diplomas, has also made our work very rewarding.

This year, 17 CAMPers graduated with their bachelor's degree and two graduate students completed their master's degree. Maria Mendoza (CAMP '09) became a Specialist in Education and School Psychology. Jorge Rodriguez (CAMP '10) is on his way to the University of New Mexico where he will earn a Ph. D. in American Studies (he will also travel to Palestine this summer to study comparative borders). We would also like to recognize our 14th cohort for their hard work to build a strong academic foundation that will help them throughout their undergraduate studies. Needless to say, the CAMP team is very proud of all our students!

NMSU CAMP's success has not gone unnoticed. Last September we were recognized as a Bright Spot in Hispanic Education by the White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanics.

We are thankful and humbled for that recognition and look forward to serving CAMPers for years to come. As we prepare a new proposal for an additional five years of funding, we are aware of the challenges ahead of us. As with all new projects, there is uncertainty and stress, but there is also hope which we find in the CAMP students.

We are currently preparing to guide the 15th cohort as they prepare to embark on their academic journeys, and what an amazing journey this will be! We look forward to assisting them throughout their undergraduate careers and cheering them on when the NMSU class of 2020 walks across the graduation stage!



Our CAMP staff's yearly summer visit to the farms in Southern New Mexico. Back row (left to right): Sonia Flynn, José Montoya, Jaime Lopez. Front row (left to right): CAMP student Danny Gonzalez, Michelle Montano, Sarah Gallegos, Cynthia Bejarano

NMSU CAMP's 14th Cohort



Front row (left to right): Miguel Corral, Ana Olvera, Martin Duron, Alfonso Rios, Raul Perez, Joaquin Chavarria. **2nd Row:** Alex Lopez, Sara Mendieta, Paulina Samaniego, Oralia Serrano, Elizabeth Zavala, Marilu Varela. **3rd Row:** Alondra Armendariz, Carmen Gonzalez, Alvaro Chavez, Cesar Marquez, Israel Monsivaiz, Jesus Del Rio, Ezequiel Terrazas. **Back Row:** Brayan Perez, Martin Serrano, Jose Luis Serrano, Jesus Carrasco, Maria Martinez, Abdu Sandoval, Osvaldo Herrera, Cesar Caballero

In August 2015, we welcomed the 14th cohort into the NMSU CAMP family. These CAMPers came from various parts of New Mexico such as Hagerman, Artesia, Deming and Animas, as well as various districts throughout Doña Ana County. We also had participants from El Paso, TX. Regardless of their hometowns, they formed life-long friendships.

Freshman Martin Serrano, summed up this past year by offering advice for incoming students. "Take advantage of the program as much as you can. CAMP guided me because of their great knowledge on how the university works."

We look forward to seeing all members of this cohort throughout the coming year!

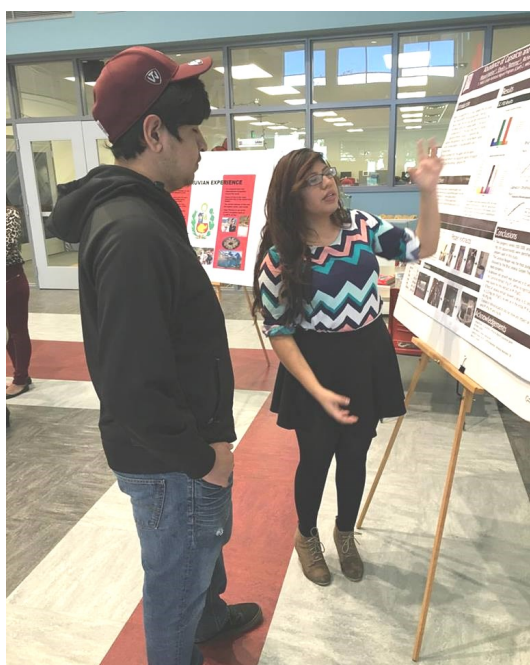
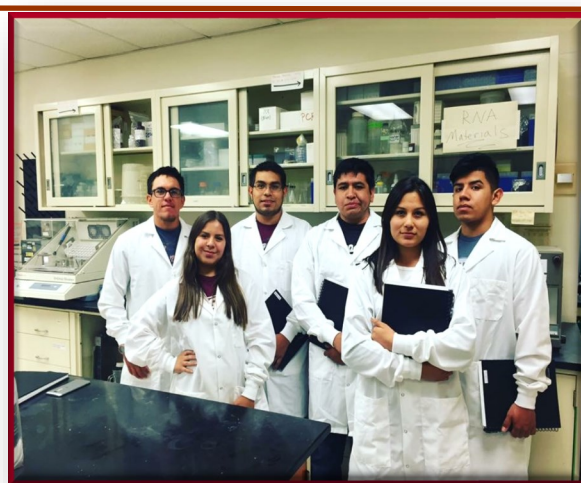


Thanks to our STEM partners at NMSU, CAMP freshmen participated in several STEM-related workshops throughout the year, where they had the opportunity to engage in hands-on STEM projects. Pictured left are students attending a Science, Engineering, Mathematics and Aerospace Academy (SEMAA) presentation, where they learned about robotics and programming functions.

Medicinal Plants Summer Research Program

Six CAMP freshmen participated in the six-week Medicinal Plants Program this summer. The students worked in pairs to research plants of their choosing to determine if they hold medicinal properties. This summer program was conducted by Dr. Laura Rodriguez-Urbe, a research scientist in the Department of Plant and Environmental Sciences.

From left to right: Joaquin Chavarria, Marilu Varela, Osvaldo Herrera, Martin Duron, Oralia Serrano and Israel Monsivais.



CAMPPer Ebelin Rodriguez presenting her Medicinal Plants poster to freshman student Martin Duron during the 2016 CAMP Poster Exhibition .

“Our internship with Medicinal Plants of the Southwest has been by far one of our best experiences. Our team did research on cinnamon to see if it had the ability to kill bacteria. We learned to use many new machines and equipment. A special thanks to CAMP for giving us the opportunity to be a part of the Medicinal Plants of the Southwest!”

Israel Monsivais and Martin Duron

“The Medicinal Plants of the Southwest research was a once in a lifetime experience. It was an honor being able to work with Dr. Laura-Urbe - someone who is so passionate about her job! Aside from learning about research, we also learned some life experiences and advice from her.”

Joaquin Chavarria and Oralia Serrano

“This was a great experience! We learned many things, from using high-end equipment to working as a team, thinking with an open mind, making decisions, and taking responsibility for our own project, like reading articles about it, instead of someone telling us what to do. This experience will prepare us for the future!

Marilu Varela and Osvaldo Herrera

The Bridge Inspection Internship

CAMP student Joshua "Josh" Flores, a civil engineering major, participated in the five-week Bridge Inspection Summer Internship, where he had the opportunity to assist in inspecting highway and roadway structures, such as concrete slab bridges, concrete box culverts, and pre-stressed concrete girder bridges.

Prior to embarking on this project, he attended a two-weeks training to receive his Bridge Inspection Training School certificate.

Dr. David Jauregui, Department Head of Civil Engineering and director of the Bridge Inspection Internship, directs this five week summer program offered to civil engineering students who meet specific qualifications.

Josh shared, "This internship

gave me a great experience on how hands-on and office documentation in the work field operates and functions. It has given me an idea of one aspect of engineering to look forward to in the future."



Josh pictured to the left



Jose Paz, NM State Rep, Doreen Gallegos and Marisol Chairez



NM State Senator William Soules, pictured with CAMPer Uriel Munoz

In an effort to increase our students' knowledge and leadership skills, CAMP partnered with NMSU's Office of Government Relations to offer legislative shadowing experiences for a few of our students in January 2016.

This two-day experience, offered to top-notch students, allows them to sharpen their professional communication skills, see the legislative process in action, and offers students the chance to speak of the benefits of programs such as CAMP.

Legislative Shadowing



USHLI Attendees included (left to right) Marilu Varela, Martin Duron, Osvaldo Herrera, and Paulina Samaniego.

Future Leaders

Every year, CAMP freshmen are given the opportunity to attend local and national conferences to enhance their leadership skills and gain self-confidence. To be selected, students must show commitment to building their leadership skills. In February, four students attended the United States Hispanic Leadership Institute (USHLI) in Chicago, IL.

Another 10 students attended the SW HEP/CAMP Student Leadership conference held in Santa Fe, NM. The expectation is that these students bring back leadership training to enhance the NMSU community.



4 Role Models



Erika pictured with Ofelia Gamez, President of the National HEP/CAMP Association and Roberto Rodriguez, Deputy Assistant to the President for Education for the White House Domestic Policy Council.

Erika Alvarez received the Roberto Rodriguez Champion Award during the 2015 National HEP/CAMP Conference. Originally from Alaska, Erika moved to California to work in the fields with her mother. The family then migrated to Deming, New Mexico where she graduated from Deming High School.

She served as the treasurer for the CAMP Student Council this year, and helped coordinate many events such as the Sammy Gurulé scholarship fundraiser. Erika volunteered at many freshmen meetings as well. She also helped facilitate a workshop at the SW HEP/CAMP Student Leadership in Santa Fe, NM. In addition, Erika currently maintains exceptional grades in a rigorous nursing program! This recognition from the HEP/CAMP community is well deserved.

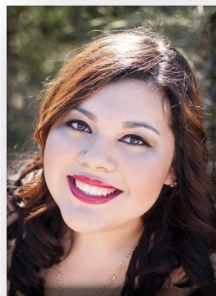
Erika was also the recipient of the CAMP/Sammy Gurule Memorial Scholarship in 2016.

Congratulations, Erika!

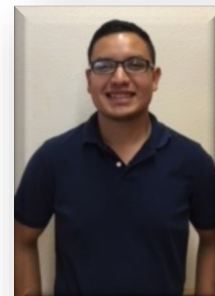
Scholarships!



Kaydee Porras, recipient of the CAMP/Sammy J. Gurule Memorial Scholarship 2016



Angelica Galvan, recipient of the Georgia Jacquez-Lewis Family/CAMP Endowed Scholarship 2016



Angel Mena, recipient of the Louise Salazar CAMP Endowed Scholarship 2016



Brothers, Diego and Edgar Dominguez



Leonel Caro, Marisol Caro, and Reyna Caro-Araiza have all graduated with bachelor's degrees. They are pictured here with their parents and Reyna's husband at her graduation in December 2015.

A Family Affair

Throughout our 14 years, NMSU CAMP has served 62 sets of siblings! It doesn't end there, but cousins, nieces and nephews participate in CAMP, too. We truly believe in our motto that CAMP is a "home away from home!" The family-like environment has been beneficial for our students' success and we look forward to serving future generations.



Luis Levario with his sister Iliana (CAMP alumna) and their mother, Maribel.

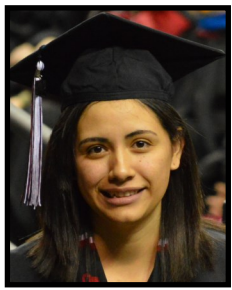


Rocio, Sandra (CAMP alumni) and Ana (mom) Caballero at the 2016 Banquet.



The Cerna Family: Three graduates left to right: Jose Cerna, Melissa Cerna and Adrian Cerna

5 Fall 2015 Graduates



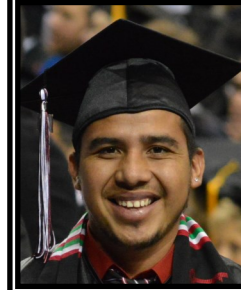
Las Cruces, NM
Bachelor of Fine Arts
Graphic Design

Rocio Caballero



Hagerman, NM
Bachelor of Science
in Family/Consumer
Science
Concentration:
Education

Reyna Caro Araiza



Salem, NM
Bachelor of Science
in Agriculture
Wildlife Science

Pedro Castillo



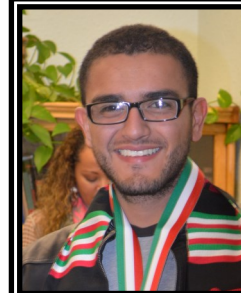
Hatch, NM
Bachelor of Criminal
Justice & Bachelor of
Arts in Foreign
Languages
(Spanish)

Diego Dominguez



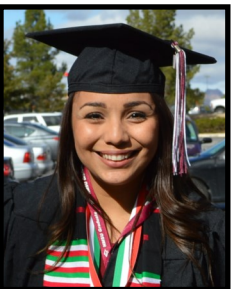
Columbus, NM
Bachelor of Science
Industrial
Engineering

Kerena Dominguez



Columbus, NM
Bachelor of Creative
Media
Animation and Visual
Effects

Eugenio Ibarra



Anthony, TX
Bachelor of Public
Health

Nancy Mendoza



Salem, NM
Bachelor of Arts in
Government &
Bachelor of Arts in
Foreign Languages
(Spanish)

Ricardo Serrano



Deming, NM
Bachelor of
Accountancy

Evaristo Escareno



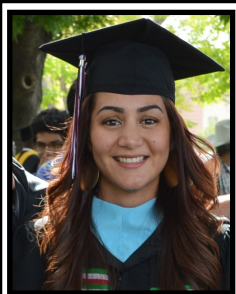
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SCHOLARS

Spring 2016 Graduates

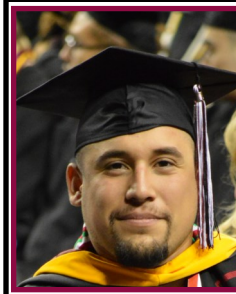


Hatch, NM

Specialist in Education
Focus: School Psychology &
Master of Arts in Guidance and Counseling
(Fall 2015)

Thesis: Exploring the Experiences of First
Generation NMSU CAMP Latino/a Students

Maria Mendoza

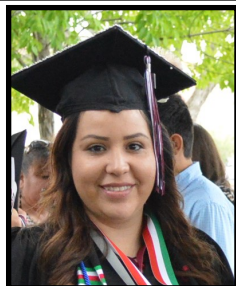


Salem, NM

Master of Criminal Justice

Thesis: Interior Border Crossing Experiences of
Young Mexican Americans and the Influence of
Border Identity

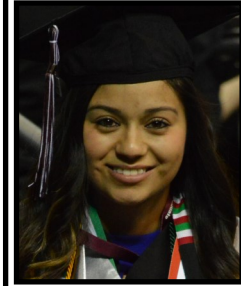
Jorge Rodriguez



Hatch, NM

**Bachelor of Social
Work**

Alma Aguilar



Hagerman, NM

**Bachelor of Public
Health &
Bachelor of Arts in
Foreign Languages
(Spanish)**

Marisol Caro



Hatch, NM

**Bachelor of Family &
Consumer Sciences
& Bachelor of Arts in
Foreign Languages
(Spanish)**

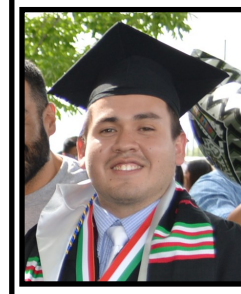
Neysla Cisneros



Las Cruces, NM

**Bachelor of Science
Hotel/Restaurant and
Tourism Management
& Bachelor of Arts in
Foreign Languages
(Spanish)**

Jesus Gomez

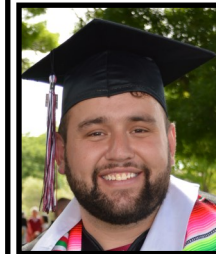


Fabens, TX

**Bachelor of Arts in
Communication
Studies**

Summer 2016

Juan Hernandez



Hatch, NM

**Bachelor of Science
Communication Disor-
ders & Bachelor of Arts
in Foreign Languages
(Spanish)
Summer 2016**

Luis Levario



Columbus, NM

**Bachelor of Science
Mechanical
Engineering Technology
& Bachelor of Arts in
Foreign Languages
(French)**

Rocky Navarrete



Las Cruces, NM

**Bachelor of
Social Work**

Margarita Torres



Salem, NM

**Bachelor of
Science
Mechanical
Engineering**

Estevan Varela

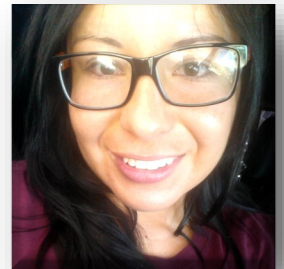
Where are they now?

Social media has been a useful tool to stay in touch with many of our CAMP alumni/graduates. It is always exciting to see their growth, both professionally and personally. We proudly present just a glimpse of what NMSU CAMP alum are up to these days, and hope their stories will continue to inspire future generations of CAMPers.



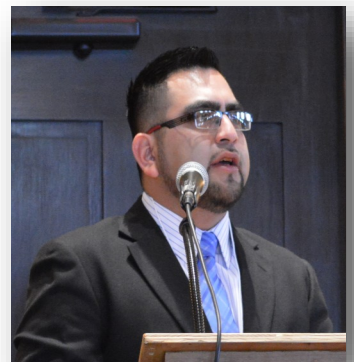
Jessica Gomez received a job offer from Cummins Inc. following a summer internship in 2014, and she accepted it! After obtaining her Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering in May 2015, she joined Cummins' headquarters in Columbus, Indiana. As a Product Validation Engineer, she explains that she is part of a team working on a new industrial engine program that will launch in 2008. "I have learned so much and I am loving my job. I work with amazing people, which makes my job that much more rewarding. I do however, miss my family very much, but I am proud and thankful of where I'm at, and all the people that helped me get here, including CAMP."

Flor Ogaz works for the Los Lunas School District as a physical education (PE) teacher for kindergarten through sixth grade at Toe Elementary. She is also pursuing her master's degree in educational leadership through Western New Mexico University (WNMU). She would like to teach PE and Spanish at the high school level before applying for an administration position. "My career goal is to become a principal," Flor confides, "but I am extremely happy teaching PE that it might delay my aspiration to become a principal so quickly. "



Omar Carrera obtained his Science in Mechanical Engineering Technology bachelor's degree in May 2010. Right after his graduation, he was offered a job with El Paso Electric Company, where he works as a Staff Engineer. Part of his job consists of designing power line extensions to provide electrical service to residential and commercial customers. He is married to Yesenia Luna (CAMP alumna) and has two baby boys, Angel Omar (almost 3 years old) and Oliver Mateo (9 months). "I plan on going back to NMSU to obtain a Master's degree in Mechanical Engineering, but for now I want to spend valuable time with my family."

Omar Hernandez graduated from NMSU in December 2012 with a Bachelor of Science in Secondary Education and a Bachelor of Arts in Biology. Omar returned to his hometown of Hatch to teach 8th grade science at Hatch Valley Middle School. Shortly after, he took over as the head coach for the high school boys' soccer team, leading them to various district titles. In just the few years he has been teaching, Omar has made a significant impact in the lives of his students. Recently, he was recognized for excellence in teaching by the Bridge of Southern New Mexico, a Las Cruces based nonprofit committed to strengthening the school-to-workforce. He was also nominated for Teacher of the Year by his school district and will soon find out the results of that nomination. Omar states, "I always tell my students that an education doesn't guarantee money, but it insures that no one ever takes advantage of you." He also leaves this bit of advice for future CAMP students, "Find your passion and pursue it wholeheartedly while always trying to make the world a better place. Nunca se les olvide sus raíces."



⁸A time to honor and celebrate

The CAMP Annual Banquet



Provost Howard congratulating Marisol Caro and awarding her a CAMP stole

Every year, the CAMP family looks forward to a night where our students and program are recognized for the excellent tasks accomplished throughout the year. It is a time to honor our graduates and to celebrate the diverse community that contributes to our overall success. This year, we recognized Minerva Galaz, Associate Director, at NMSU Admissions and Vicente Vargas at the Government Affairs Office. Minerva has helped countless CAMP applicants during the admissions process, and Vicente has provided CAMP students the opportunity to shadow NM legislatures. We were also joined by special guests such as NMSU Provost Dr. Dan Howard and NM State Representative Doreen Gallegos. What a wonderful way of sending our graduates off into the world!



Uriel Munoz and Kaydee Porras did a fabulous job as the night's MCs



Maria Rodriguez (left) and sister Maribel, NMSU CAMP alumna and keynote speaker



NMSU Staff Award recipient Minerva Galaz with CAMP Recruiter, José Montoya



Entertainment provided by Conjunto CAMP, Oscar Guerrero, David Diaz and Edgar Dominguez.



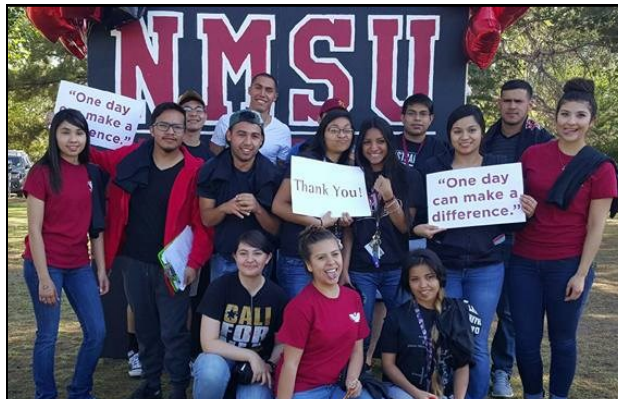
9 CAMPers in action

Student Council

Community is at the heart of all the NMSU CAMP Student Council activities. This student organization attended many service projects such as cleaning up the NMSU campus, fundraising for scholarships, and coming together to bring exciting activities to the entire student body at NMSU.

The CAMP Student Council sponsored motivational youth speaker Patrick Perez as the keynote speaker during NMSU Latino Week. They also contributed some of their hard-earned funds to help another student organization, Soul Verse, to host Cuban hip hop artist, Danay Suarez.

The council coordinated events for Farmworker Awareness Week, including Cesar Chavez Day. The last week of March was dedicated to educating the NMSU community on the farm-worker struggle, and justice in the fields. Other events included the annual Cesar Chavez Blood Drive, our annual scholarship enchilada sale, and participating in the Marcha Campesina held in downtown El Paso, TX. It was a proud moment as they marched down the street echoing a message of solidarity and unity with their farm-working families.



Cleaning the NMSU campus on a Saturday morning during the Keep State Great event in April 2016.



Marcha Campesina, March 2016



Motivational speaker and dancer, Patrick Perez, with CAMPers, March 2016



Recruiting and inspiring the NMSU community to donate at the Cesar Chavez Blood Drive. March 2016

CAMP Alumni Reunion



Maria Reyes, David Diaz, Oscar Guerrero and Jennifer Santos enjoying refreshments at the picnic.

Last September, 2015, saw many familiar faces during the first-ever CAMP Alumni Reunion. We think of our students as family and try stay in touch with as many alumni as possible, as well as following up on their professional journeys.

Current students met graduates and were motivated by their personal stories of success. Some alumni even formed their own families! A bounce castle was available for the jumping enjoyment of our youngest members of the extended CAMP family.



Neida Aldaba with her son. Jesus Avitia, a former CAMP Student Council president speaks to the group of attendees at the reunion.

10 CAMPers around the world!



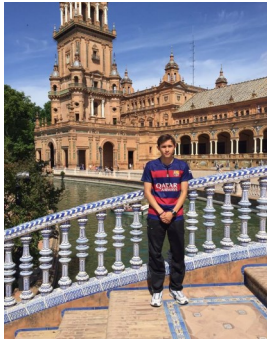
Marisol Caro & Marisol Chairez
Study Abroad/Internship: Peru



Maria Gomez, Study Abroad: Ecuador



Brenda Carrillo
Study Abroad: Ecuador



Ricardo Terrazas
Study Abroad: Spain



Rocky Navarrete
Study Abroad: France



Danny Gonzalez
Study Abroad: Costa Rica