



NMSU College Assistance Migrant Program

2011-2012 Newsletter

Live, Learn and Thrive.

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Editors:
José Montoya
Angela Simental

Diez Años Cultivando Sueños

The College Assistance Migrant Program at New Mexico State University reached a milestone worth commemorating—10 years of success! On October 26, 2011, participants from nearly all ten cohorts, along with community and university partners, gathered to attend “CAMP Day—*Diez Años Cultivando Sueños*.” It was a time to celebrate the program’s accomplishments and achievements during the ten years it has been at NMSU.

The day started with the annual Poster Expo where CAMP students are given an opportunity to present their research and academic experiences. Following the poster expo were opening remarks given by NMSU President, Dr. Barbara Couture. The afternoon keynote speaker was Francisco García, Director of the Interstate Migrant Education Council and former Director of the Office of Migrant Education. The evening keynote speaker was NMSU Alumnus and Foundation Board Member, José Uranga. Both García and Uranga shared their experiences growing up and the obstacles they faced as Latinos in higher education. They encouraged our students to continue pursuing their dreams despite the hurdles that might appear in the road.



NMSU alumnus, Omar Carrera

A participant panel of NMSU/CAMP alumni was also part of the day’s activities. Past participants that have graduated from NMSU were able to discuss their history in the agricultural fields, how the program has impacted their lives and talked about their personal success stories. The panelists included Sandra Gutiérrez (2nd Cohort); Tony Morán (2nd Cohort); Erika Martínez (3rd Cohort); and Omar Carrera (4th Cohort). These young professionals recalled special memories of CAMP while they were students and proved that hard work and perseverance pay off.

Although we love to celebrate at CAMP, it should be noted that these events were an accu-

mulation and reward for the hard work put in by the staff. In particular, CAMP Day was our way of acknowledging the end of our second five-year grant cycle. Throughout the fall semester, the entire staff worked collaboratively to provide the details for our next venture. This past January we submitted a proposal to the Office of Migrant Education for an additional five-year grant cycle and expect a response by the end of this summer.



Students modeling their CAMP 10-year t-shirts.

Today the staff consists of Dr. Cynthia Bejarano, Principal Investigator; Michelle Montaña, Director; Larry Salazar, Recruiter; Sonia Flynn, Administrative Assistant; Eva Telles, Academic Advisor; and José Montoya, Retention Advisor. These individuals put in a tremendous amount of hours advocating and finding creative ways to retain our students. It might be assisting students with personal essays for scholarships, figuring out financial aid, or just listening to a personal problem; whatever the task, we work to ensure our students receive quality services.

NMSU CAMP has often been recognized as a model program for best practices and the family-like atmosphere the students have grown used to. It has been through all this hard work and nurturing environment that we have, indeed, been able to cultivate dreams. Although we are uncertain of what the future brings, we remain confident that NMSU CAMP will have a lasting impact.



L to R: Francisco García, Rocio Caballero, and Dr. Bejarano enjoyed the Poster Expo as they discussed Rocio’s research she conducted last summer.

Outstanding CAMP Students: Get to Know Them!

María Mendoza, from Hatch, NM, has overcome many challenges with perseverance, dedication and determination. As she prepares for her last year as an undergraduate student, she reflects on her accomplishment and challenges. "I am most definitely looking forward to my graduation," she said. "I have worked hard and have had stressful semesters. I can proudly say that the late night studying and lack of sleep has paid off because I am very close to walking across that stage and looking toward the crowd and focusing only on two individuals, my father and my mother."

Mendoza recalls that at first, adapting to the college life was hard, because she comes from a very close-knit family. "Sometimes letting go is not an option. There were weekends that I would have liked to stay near school to get homework or studying done, but my parents wanted me home, and it was a challenge juggling through school, family and work," she said.

One of the things that helped Mendoza face her academic and personal challenges was CAMP. "CAMP has been the initiator to my college education. My first year in college it provided me with assistance in my studies, it kept me in check by checking my grades throughout both semesters. Also, informational workshops and meetings with a psychologist were given and helped our cohort bond as friends. Advising helped me decide what classes I would be taking the following semester and commit to my goals," she added.

Throughout her undergraduate career Mendoza has received numerous scholarships and travelled to Seville, Spain.

María plans to continue her education and pursue a master's degree in either the Family and Marriage Therapy program at NMSU or the counseling program at UNM.



Pamela Prieto is excited for the opportunities that await her after she graduates this coming fall 2012. She will be graduating with two bachelor degrees—one in Finance and the other in Accounting with a minor in Banking. Pamela will also be graduating with distinguished honors due to completing an honor's thesis this past spring. She also plans to continue her education. "I will be starting my Master of Accountancy at NMSU and will be graduating from the program in the summer of 2013 since next semester I will be taking some graduate courses to graduate faster."

Although Pamela has been a model student, she states being in college has not always been easy for her. She told CAMP that, "My greatest challenge is the language. I am a Spanish-speaking student and even though I feel that my English has improved tremendously over the years, I still need to gain more confidence speaking it." Despite this challenge, Pamela has managed to earn outstanding grades and has been a Crimson Scholar throughout her entire undergraduate experience.

Pamela, who is originally from Dexter, NM, credits CAMP for opening doors throughout her college years. She says the financial assistance during the freshmen year and advising she received were beneficial for her. She also said, "after the first year, CAMP has always been there for every situation I encounter, either offering me advice or moral support, and always encouraging me to reach my goals."

Apart from being an honor student, Pamela has been involved in various student organizations and internships. She is a member of Delta Sigma Pi which is a business professional fraternity and of Beta Alpha Psi, which is an Accounting fraternity. Pamela was also an intern last summer at NMSU's Treasury Department and just ended another internship this past spring with a local accounting firm, Beasley, Mitchell & Co. She has also been the recipient of numerous scholarships including the NMSU Regents Scholarship as well as the highly-competitive Hispanic Scholarship Fund.

Pamela states that studying in Seville, Spain during the fall of 2010 has been her greatest accomplishment. "I proved to myself that I can accomplish whatever I set my mind to. I also feel very proud that I was an exchange student on scholarship, and I did not have to pay any money out of my pocket," she said. Pamela has used her time wisely at NMSU and proves that nothing is impossible with self determination.

Outstanding Students Continued...



Eugenio Ibarra, from Columbus, N.M., has been an exemplary student in spite of the challenges many first-year college students face.

Aside from being one of the recipients of the Medicinal Plants of the Southwest internship at New Mexico State University, he is also a Crimson Scholar and has received other scholarships.

Ibarra said he feels most proud of achieving good grades in all of his classes.

“Class tests were the biggest challenge for me, but there is no way around it — you have to study to pass,” he said. “Also, CAMP checks on me every month. They want to know if I am doing well in my classes. This drives me to put more effort into getting good grades so that I can make them proud.”

He added that he felt intimidated the first day of classes.

Eugenio said, “Once I stepped into the CAMP office I felt secure because I knew I had support from good people that would help me with just about everything I needed. From that day until now, every weekday I go to the CAMP office to work on homework and ask for advice from the staff.” He also mentioned that with the scholarship from CAMP, which covers 75 percent of housing and meals, book stipends and training, he was able to successfully complete his freshmen year.

“Without CAMP, I may not have had the financial means to attend college,” he added. “Living in campus makes it easier to study because everything is within a short distance. The meal plan that CAMP provided was great because I can go eat as many times; CAMP’s book stipend is also great because on my first semester I bought all of my books with that and this semester I did not have to buy books because the ones I needed were at the CAMP office, so I borrowed them at no cost.”

As Ibarra prepares for his second year, he said he feels comfortable “that CAMP is still going to be there for me in the future until I graduate.”

Jorge Rodríguez, a sophomore from Hatch, N.M., is ambitious, driven and a hard worker. His goal is to graduate with a double major in Criminal Justice and Spanish in the next two years, and so far, he is on the right track. “Staying focused is a challenge for any student. There are a lot of distractions and the stress of trying to complete a bachelor’s degree in three years is hard,” he said.

Rodríguez’s main goal is “trying not to get burned out.” He takes 18 credits every semester and works 15 hours as a CAMP mentor. He is proof that perseverance and hard work are needed to achieve goals. Aside from being a Crimson Scholar, he was placed on the Dean’s List now that he progressed into his junior year. In addition, next year he will receive the Fabian and Virginia Samaniego Memorial Endowed Scholarship. Jorge has also been active in the CAMP Student Council and was elected secretary for the upcoming school year. He is also a member of the Pi Kappa Alpha Fraternity.

“The strategy is to set your priorities straight,” he said. “For me, school is first at all times.”

In 2011, he was selected as a research assistant for the ASSURED Program at NMSU’s Chile Pepper Institute, where he was able to work on and taste one of the hottest species of chile in the world.

Rodríguez said he wants to dedicate his attention to academics, and that his strategy is to maintain close ties to CAMP. Jorge says that his interest in being a peer mentor is that he wants to give back to CAMP as well as getting prepared for a career with adolescents. He is also currently toying with the idea of studying abroad in Costa Rica. His plans for the future include attending graduate school and obtaining a Master of Arts in Counseling. Jorge would eventually like to work with troubled teenagers in Doña Ana County. Based on his interactions with other CAMP students, there is no doubt he would be a valuable counselor!



NMSU CAMP Graduates



Mario Cisneros
Hatch, NM

Bachelor of Science
Elementary Education
Fall 2011



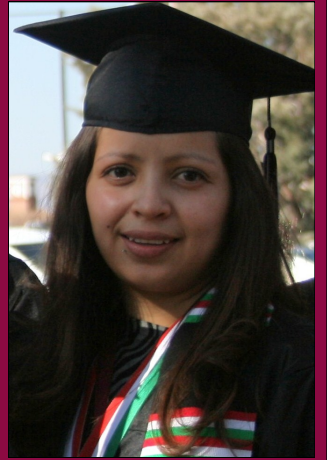
Yesenia Godoy
Artesia, NM

Master of Public
Administration
Fall 2011



Misael Mendoza
Deming, NM

Master of Business
Administration in Finance
Fall 2011



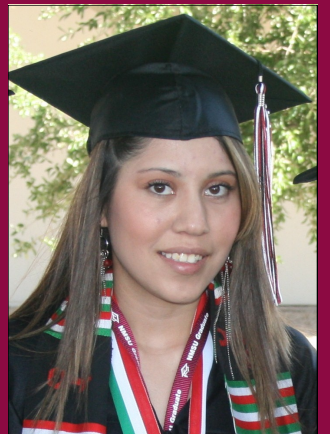
Nohemí Morán
Salem, NM

Bachelor of Business
Administration in
General Business
Minors: Finance,
Management
Fall 2011



Tayde Soto
Hatch, NM

Master of Accountancy
Fall 2011



Guadalupe Alaniz
Garfield, NM

Bachelor of
Criminal Justice,
Bachelors of Arts in
Foreign Language
(Spanish)
Spring 2012

2011-2012



Yesenia Aldaba
Deming, NM

Bachelor of Business
Administration in
Finance
Spring 2012



Emmanuel Díaz
Deming, NM

Bachelor of Science
Information Engineering
Technology
Spring 2012



Jessica Dueñas
San Elizario, TX

Bachelor of
Criminal Justice
Spring 2012



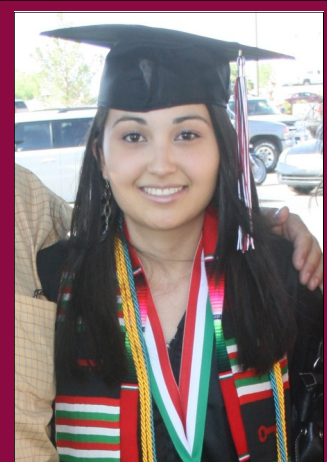
María González
Hatch, NM

Bachelor of Science
Family and Child Sciences
Minor: Counseling and
Educational Psychology
Spring 2012



Lorena Hermosillo
Dexter, NM

Bachelor of
Criminal Justice,
Bachelors of Arts in
Foreign Language
(Spanish)
Spring 2012



Bernice Jáuregui
Clovis, NM

Bachelor of Arts
Sociology
Minors: Counseling and
Educational Psychology,
Business Administration
Spring 2012

NMSU CAMP's 10th Cohort, 2011-2012



This past school-year brought the largest cohort NMSU CAMP has seen yet! Thirty-five freshmen from New Mexico and West Texas became part of our academic family. This group has been highly successful and we are proud to announce that 11 members of this cohort have been named NMSU Crimson Scholars. This prestigious recognition is for students who earn a cumulative GPA of 3.5 or higher. Congratulations to all our 2011-2012 freshmen in completing your first year at the University!

L to R, Front Row: Yesenia Rodríguez, Alicia Bañuelos, Delia Avalos, Kerena Domínguez, Jackie Unzueta, Neyda Aldaba, and María Fernanda Montellano.

L to R, Middle Row: Hermilo Ogaz, Araceli Delgado, Marlene Zúñiga, María Elena López, María Moreno, Mayela Chairez, Margarita Torres, Maribel Martínez, Jessie Cabral and Orlando Martínez

L to R, Top Row: Sergio Maldonado, Damien Janzen, Eugenio Ibarra, Fernando Nájera, Manuel Ramírez, Ricardo Ángeles, Arcadio Bojórquez, Nancy Mendoza, Roberto Rivas, Juan Hernández, Bety Varela, Carlos Hernández, Reyna Caro, Janet Rodríguez, and Ana Ruiz

StoryCorps Preserves CAMP Student's Life Story

StoryCorps, a national nonprofit organization dedicated to recording the lives experiences of people all over the country, stopped in Mesilla this past February, and two CAMPers ventured in its metallic van to tell their story.

Juan Hernández shared his experiences, along with his COMPA Flor Ogaz, which were recorded and will be preserved in the Library of Congress.

"It's unique because you really feel like you are at a cafe late at night talking with someone, well except that you have huge microphones in front of you," Hernández explained. "Then people in the conversation state their names, age, location and the conversation begins. The conversation lasts about 45 minutes which could be intimidating at first but once you start it's an easy flow."

Hernández said he enjoyed this experience and in return, he had the opportunity to know his COMPA better.

"I loved it! I think StoryCorps is a great program that will keep our stories alive even after none of us are here to tell them. I got to know my COMPA Flor a lot more. She is definitely more than a COMPA now, she is one of my best friends," he said.

For that reason, he said that this was a valuable experience, something that can be preserved for years to come.

"Knowing that by participating in StoryCorps my conversation will be kept in the Library of Congress, I know that whatever I talked about, and what about society then will probably be different in a few years. It is something to look back later on and be like, 'Ha! I can't believe that's how I used to think!'" he said.



Louise Salazar Endowed Scholarship

This past spring semester, CAMP received wonderful news. Candice Stern became a donor for the program and initiated the Louise Salazar Endowed Scholarship. Candice grew up in a small town in Western Nebraska, a community dependent on agriculture. She lived outside the city limits near sugar beet fields, where she would often see migrant workers. She comments, “I’ve always admired the tough nature of people willing to travel for hundreds of miles to do back-wrenching work from dawn to dusk in sometimes unbearably hot weather.”

Candice named the scholarship after Louise Salazar who worked for her family for two generations. Louise was not a migrant worker, but Candice grew fond of her. “We all loved her. She was a joy, a very positive person with a huge and beautiful smile on her face. For me, she was the face of the large Hispanic community in Scottsbluff.”

This generous contribution to CAMP is based on Candice’s belief that everyone should have the opportunity to an education. “Educated citizens are the key to our future in the United States. And by creating this scholarship, I feel I am enabling, in a small way, some of these young men and women to further themselves, to become educated and productive citizens.”

We are very grateful for her generosity. The scholarship will be awarded once a year to a NMSU CAMP student who meets the eligibility criteria which include, being a full-time undergraduate junior, maintaining a 3.0 cumulative GPA or better, demonstrating financial need and be in good standing with NMSU CAMP and active in its events.

Georgia Jacquez-Lewis CAMP Scholarship



Congratulations to Ramon Hernández on being the first recipient of the Georgia Jacquez-Lewis CAMP Scholarship for NMSU CAMPers! He just completed his sophomore year and has been quite busy since he started at NMSU. Ramon is majoring in Government with a minor in history and has been a work-study employee for NMSU’s Department of Government. On top of his busy schedule, he found time to be a volunteer intern at the Catholic Charities Diocese of Las Cruces Legal Service Program last fall. All this work is certainly starting to pay off. Ramon was selected to be a Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU) intern in Albuquerque, NM this summer. Way to go, Ramon!

Ramon accepts his scholarship with his sister Martina and Dean Slaton from the College of Arts and Sciences.

Summer Experiences

The good news kept rolling in this spring semester as our CAMP students applied for internships and other opportunities for summer 2012. Congratulations to the following NMSU CAMPers for their upcoming adventures!

- Alicia Bañuelos—Intern, Medicinal Plants of the Southwest, Las Cruces, NM
- Reyna Caro—National Conference for Collegiate Women Student Leaders, College Park, MD
- Pedro Castillo—Intern, U.S. Forest Service, Hamilton, MT
- Araceli Delgado—Intern, Medicinal Plants of the Southwest, Las Cruces, NM
- Kerena Domínguez—Intern, Medicinal Plants of the Southwest, Las Cruces, NM
- Branden Ibarra—Intern, NM Governor’s Office, Santa Fe, NM
- Eugenio Ibarra—Intern, Medicinal Plants of the Southwest, Las Cruces, NM
- Alma Hernández—Intern, Student Action with Farm Workers, Raleigh, NC
- Carlos Hernández—Bert Corona Leadership Institute, Washington, DC
- Ramon Hernández—Intern, HACU, Albuquerque, NM
- Bernardo López—Intern, Student Action with Farm Workers, Hendersonville, NC
- Germán Montes—Undergraduate Research Assistant, NM Alliance for Minority Participation, Las Cruces, NM
- Flor Ogaz—National Conference for Collegiate Women Student Leaders, College Park, MD
- Janet Rodríguez—Bert Corona Leadership Institute, Washington, DC

First Sammy J. Gurulé Memorial Scholarship Recipient

Valentin López, originally from Oaxaca, Mexico, was the first recipient of the Sammy J. Gurulé Memorial Scholarship.

Sammy Gurulé, from Tres Piedras, N.M., was a CAMP freshman who began college in the fall of 2006. Due to a tragic car accident, Sammy lost his life that same year on November 10. In his memory, his mother and father, along with the CAMP Student Council, began this scholarship in hopes of helping other NMSU CAMP students pursuing a degree.

Because of his leadership and extensive community service, López was chosen to receive this scholarship. “The Sammy Gurulé Scholarship will assist me greatly,” he said. “It will help me pay for books and other vital materials for school.”

López is a sophomore majoring in criminal justice. He has demonstrated to be a responsible student, who has maintained a high GPA and outstanding focus in school.

“College can get expensive,” he added. “Tuition keeps rising and books become more expensive every semester. The Gurulé family is very generous in offering students like me and opportunity to continue our education.”



Valentin López received the Sammy Gurulé Memorial Scholarship during CAMP's annual banquet on April 25.

College Assistance Migrant Program
New Mexico State University
MSC 3487
P.O. Box 30001
Las Cruces, NM 88003-8001