

# CAMPesinos del Sur

CAMP de la Universidad Estatal  
de Nuevo Mexico CAMP

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## Program Offers Chance To Break Migrant Cycle

By Dr. Cynthia Bejarano

The College Assistance Migrant Program (CAMP) at NMSU began when a dear friend and fellow advocate, Ray Lara, a migrant liaison for farmer worker families in the Gadsden School District, informed me of federal funding to help migrant farm workers attend college. The NMSU CAMP Program began in 2002, as a five-year federally funded program to assist 30 students from migrant/seasonal farm worker backgrounds per academic year. As the principal administrator of the NMSU CAMP program, I embarked on one of the most rewarding experiences of my life and I attribute it to the migrant students who have touched my life in inexplicable ways.

Their stories have served as testaments to the caliber of individuals they have grown to become. Interstate migrating with families, working since a very young age, serving in the military to save money for college, and now as adults working tirelessly to contribute to family incomes, describes the uniqueness and determination of our student cohorts.

Each student has enriched the pro-

gram with their talents, their humor and hard work, their attention to detail and diligence in not allowing this opportunity of a lifetime to slip through their fingers. Some students have had language barriers, cultural barriers, and an apprehensiveness to become part of the university community, but like butterflies coming out of their own space and flitting each other with hope and a strong desire to break the cycle of agricultural fieldwork for a better life for themselves and their families.

Despite the difficulties and obstacles that our students and program confront, I am convinced that we have opened educational doors to young people who have typically been marginalized.



2003-2004 NMSU CAMP  
Graduates

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## CAMPing out at NMSU

By Martha A. Estrada

What do you get when you combine vegetables, dairy, land, education and students? That's right! You get CAMP, the College Assistance Migrant Program sponsored by the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Migrant Education.

In order to qualify for this program the students, or their parents, must meet the following criteria:

- Be a seasonal or migrant farm worker, having worked at least 75 days in the past two years.
- Be a participant in the public school's

- migrant education program; and
- Be a part of the U.S. Department of Labor Workforce Investment Act Farm Worker Youth Program.
- The student must also demonstrate financial need.

Once the student is accepted, they receive housing and meals with a monthly stipend. In order for the students to successfully graduate from CAMP they are required to participate in monthly workshops, cultural activities and individual meetings with their CAMP academic advisor.

## The College Assistance Migrant Program: Getting Migrant Farm Workers' Children to College and Helping Them Stay

By Greg Bloom taken in part from his article at <http://frontera.nmsu.edu>

NMSU's CAMP program has assisted at this point 43 students in attending and succeeding in college. These students have unique experiences with CAMP, which they got to share with US Senator Jeff Bingaman.

Cesár Morán grew up living the difficulties that are typical of the migrant farm worker community. Born in Mexico in 1980 but now a U.S. resident, Cesár felt that he was a financial burden to his family, as he grew older. Looking for a way out of Salem, he joined the US Army.

Once finished with his military duty, Cesár enrolled in the Doña Ana Branch Community College. His first year was hard financially and he was not sure if he could continue with his studies. Then he heard about CAMP at New Mexico State University. Cesár applied for CAMP support and was accepted. He received room and board for one academic year and \$1,000 for books or other necessities. Perhaps more importantly, Cesár

had regular contact with other CAMP participants. Together they shared this experience with all of its joys, frustrations and difficulties.

After listening to the students and their families' talk, Senator Bingaman says he has been a big supporter of funding migrant education. "It's an appropriate thing for the federal government to take responsibility as many of the families do move around," he states. "Not every community can take on this commitment."



CAMP Staff and Students with Sen. Jeff Bingaman during visit

## NMSU CAMP RECRUITER'S WELCOME

By Larry Salazar

Welcome New CAMPers and Parents to the upcoming Fall 2004 and Spring 2005 semesters and a big "Hello" to all the CAMP alumni Students and Parents of the Spring/ Fall 2003 and Spring 2004 semesters and to our new CAMPesino del Sur readers. The CAMP Recruiter is responsible for the recruitment of the CAMP students and assisting them with the application process to determine program eligibility and selection by the CAMP selection committee as a CAMP Scholarship recipient. The initial recruitment of the program began in November 2002 with seven students for the 2003 Spring semester followed by thirty-five students completing this past Spring semester and with another thirty-five students selected for the upcoming Fall 2004 semester.

I will continue to provide you with brief NMSU CAMP recruitment activity updates, explanation of the recruitment process, and significant events in the upcoming Campesinos del Sur editions. Finally, Thanks to all the individuals responsible for making NMSU CAMP a reality, All CAMP Students and Parents, our University and Community Partners and finally the rest of the CAMP Team for bringing NMSU CAMP to where it is today.

"In this world it is possible to achieve great material wealth, to live an opulent life. But a life built upon those things alone leaves a shallow legacy, in the end, we will be judged by other standards."

Cesar E.. Chavez

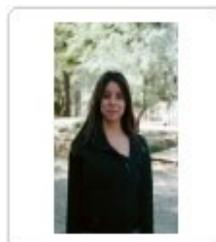
## Maria Leyva, CAMP Alumni—Scholarship Recipient 2003-2004

By Mary H. Lujan

Congratulations! The National HEP/CAMP Association has awarded Maria Leyva, who participated in the NMSU CAMP program in the Spring semester of 2003, a scholarship for the 2003-2004 school year on behalf of the 102 High School Equivalency Programs and College Assistance Migrant Programs.

This scholarship fund was created to assist HEP graduates who are currently enrolled in post-secondary education at a CAMP project, or who are entering their second, third or fourth year of college.

Each year our CAMP and HEP programs identify and refer students to the Association where they are considered for receipt of this award. The NMSU CAMP was extremely proud of recommending Maria for this award. She demonstrated initiative, re-



Maria Leyva,  
CAMP Alumni  
2003

sponsibly and leadership potential in her first year of studies and in all the CAMP activities.

Maria also received several other grants and awards during 2003-2004 and the upcoming 2004-2005 academic years which were all well deserved. She was also on the Dean's List in the Fall of 2003 and a Chemical Engineering major. Other CAMP students who were also on the Dean's List during Fall 2003 and Spring 2004 were Marisela Bobadilla, Luis E. Cruz, Misael Mendoza, Gabriela Munoz, Cesár Morán, and Daniel Ramirez.

We look forward to guiding and assisting Maria along with all of the other CAMP students with continued success and graduation.

Working all day under the hot summer sun, bending over repeatedly cutting chili peppers and tossing them in sacks and then carrying the heavy sacks from one location to another. The grueling hours go by slowly, the pay is miserable, and the physical undertaking is sometimes unbearable. Life passes by slowly and painfully while confronting the excruciating daily physical demands of repetitive work; cut and cast, cut and cast. The long years working in the fields quickly take their toll on overworked bodies, only to realize that despite the daily drudgery the income never increased and life never improved.

This is the desolate and despairing reality of the migrant farm worker. However, the migrant youth is looked upon with optimism for it is they who have a better opportunity of improving their life.

The College Assistance Migrant Program at New Mexico State University is an organization that offers academic opportunities to descendants of migrant families in an attempt to help them acquire a higher education.

CAMP gives students with migrant backgrounds the necessary tools to complete their college education by offering financial assistance, academic advice, and most importantly, a community of mutual trust. Brenda Corral, a CAMP member and

daughter of two migrant parents, admits she could not have attended college if it weren't for CAMP.

With the help of CAMP Brenda recently joined the Bert Corona Leadership Institute where participants deal with immigrant advocacy issues in politics. Brenda is currently pursuing a career in immigrant services to improve the harsh and often unjust conditions surrounding migrant farm labor.

In fact, in CAMP there are many accounts similar to Brenda's. As descendants of migrant parents, almost every CAMP member has experienced the hardships of migrant living.

CAMP makes it possible for students with migrant backgrounds to continue their post-secondary education so that they can succeed in the workforce. In doing so, CAMP improves the lives of not only these individuals, but of the entire immigrant community as well.



Luis E. Cruz receives the Sally Meisenhelder's 2004 Social Justice Award

## Two Outstanding CAMP Students Travel to UNM for Celebration

By Luis E. Cruz

On Friday April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2004, two outstanding CAMP students, Lizett Tena and myself, Luis Cruz, attended the third annual NM /WTASAP TriO Day and OME Celebration at the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Different programs and organizations attended this event including Student Support Services, Educational Opportunity Centers and Upward Bound among others to demonstrate their support for migrant education.

After registration and checking-in at the hotel the UNM Student Ambassadors gave all the student guests a tour of the college campus.

In the evening, a pizza party and a trivia game gave all the students and staff an opportunity to socialize and intermingle.

The next morning, after having continental breakfast and checking out of the hotel, the students and staff attended the

scheduled workshops. Workshop topics for students varied from academic leadership to success without fear while the staff attended a marketing and relations workshop.

During lunch the staff gave a closing ceremony and handed out cash awards to 30 lucky students.

In the end, everyone parted and took wonderful memories of an unforgettable weekend at the Trio and OME celebration.

"You are never strong enough that you don't need help. ... The end of all education should surely be service to others."

Cesar E.. Chavez

## NMSU CAMP Art and Cultural Activities an Workshops important part In CAMP Students' Lives

By Dr. Cynthia Bejarano

Elevating and maximizing student potential is an important part of retention. The NMSU CAMP students will be recognized for the unique skills they bring with them and encouraged to acquire new skills. Among these skills they will acquire will be provided in the monthly CAMP program workshops include basic study skills, interpersonal relationships, financial aid, nutrition, and most importantly leadership.

The development of leadership skills is paramount for the CAMP student success. As CAMP students develop leadership skills, they will be encouraged to join other organizations and assume leadership positions within those organizations.



Edward James Olmos with Cesar Morán, Linda Hernandez, and Maria Leyva.

The university and the communities of Las Cruces and El Paso, Texas are enriched by the many cultural and art event opportunities. These activities include those that would be culturally relevant as well as those that might be new to the CAMP students' experiences. It is important to include a good mixture of both types of activities in order to establish pride in the Mexican and Mexican-American cultures as well as broaden students' perspectives and cultural/artistic awareness of other ethnic/racial cultures and a broader conceptualization of "culture".



**CAMP de la Universidad Estatal  
de Nuevo Mexico CAMP**

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***"It is not enough to teach our young people to be successful... so they can realize their ambitions, so they can earn good livings, so they can accumulate the material things that this society bestows. Those are worthwhile goals. But it is not enough to progress as individuals while our friends and neighbors are left behind. ... Students must have initiative; they should not be mere imitators. They must learn to think and act for themselves and be free."***

***Education of the Heart :***

***Cesar E. Chavez In His Own Words***

**"Migrant Summer Beat"**

By Angel Dominguez

Out in the summer heat,  
The workers don't miss a beat.

Sweating to provide,  
With the thought of their families inside.

"That *raza* is lazy,"  
Saying this is just crazy.

Strong willed *chicanos* and *chicanas*,  
Born of *Mexicanas*.

Working all day in the sun is like a fight.  
But after, there's nothing like a cold Coors Light.

The struggles they face go unknown.  
We only see the products that are grown.

The day is over and the end is near,  
There faces worn out and if you look close you might see a tear.

**CAMP Students participated in the ASSURED Program for the Second Year-  
Taken in part from NMSU article entitled "NMSU Chile Pepper Institute Unveils' Migrant Scholar Program"**

New Mexico State University's Chile Pepper Institute has found an innovative way to spice up the summer with scholarships for students with migrant roots.

A two-year, \$120,000 grant from the National Science Foundation will fund the creation of an eight-week summer program called Assured, short for agricultural summer science research and development program.

The goal is to introduce students with migrant backgrounds to the agricultural research process and to broaden their interest in scientific studies. Ten students who are U.S. citizens from first or second-generation migrant families anywhere in the United States are chosen. Program participants can be high school students with some college credits, or university freshmen or sophomores.

In addition to a \$3,000 stipend, students receive a cash allowance for meals and housing in one of NMSU's dormitory facilities, and limited students' travel expenses.

During the session, students will be mentored by faculty and graduate students in NMSU's agronomy and horticulture department. At the end of the session, students will write a research paper, make an oral presentation and complete a scientific poster about their results. Two of the 10 students will

be back to NMSU next February to present at the international 2004 New Mexico Chile Conference.

CAMP students who participated in the ASSURED Program in the Summer 2004:

- |                                   |                  |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|
| Francisco Silva                   | William Casaus   |
| Blanca Ceja                       | Sandra Guiterrez |
| Rachelle Lucero                   | Misael Mendoza   |
| Pablo Rios                        | Lizett Tena      |
| Cipriano Botello, UNM CAMP Alumni |                  |
| Leo Ramirez, Non-CAMPer           |                  |



Our CAMP Students in the ASSURED Program, Summer 2003, (pictured from left to right back row) Santos Barron, Non-CAMPer, Francisco Morán, César Morán, Marilyn Jacobo, Jose Luis Solis, (front row) Maria Leyva, Audrey Villamontes, Danise Coon, ASSURED Coordinator, and (standing) Baudelio De Santiago.