



EL CAMPESTRE

From CAMP to Camp: Enriching Our Community

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'IT'S LIKE MY HOME AWAY FROM HOME' *Melisa Lopez, Outreach & Retention Specialist, lets us into her space and shares why she wants to pay it forward and impact others' lives*

Melisa welcomed me into her office, quite a large space too. We began conversing about OSU and all the things we *coulda, shoulda, woulda* done as undergrad students. After she graduated and headed to eastern Oregon, she has returned and joined the CAMP team as the Outreach & Recruitment Coordinator. She feels as if Corvallis is her home, she was here for four years and coming back feels great, she has reunited with her family (CAMP).

Lopez discusses that the experiences our students have undergone resonate because she too has had to face similar adversities. This is why she likes the demographic we cater to, she adds- *I can personally relate since I've gone through it; I wasn't the best at everything. I was a student trying to figure things out.* This led into a discussion about hardships and any burdens throughout her time in college and early adulthood. Lopez mentions she could notice the present racism in her school. Growing up in Hermiston, (eastern Oregon) where the Latino population was not that large as it presently is, she experienced and saw the racism within the school system and the community. She didn't feel like she could trust the teachers. As a young girl she was very insecure about her academic writing and speaking ability. It wasn't until she came to OSU, where she met and established relationships with CAMP advisors that she felt like she could speak up, ask questions, and have trust in adults within the school system. *So, how'd you end up in Corvallis? Who influenced you to obtain a higher education?* Lopez states that her older sister is responsible, *she told me about CAMP and helped me with everything.* However, it was a hard four years. Combining work and being a full-time student while trying to have a social life was difficult. Her mother has also played a big role in her decision to come back to OSU as an employee and in pursuit of her Master's in College Student Services Administration (CSSA). She is very excited to be working with CAMP. After I asked her where she saw herself in five years, without hesitation she answered: *This job, I've always dreamt of this kind of job and my program of study is a good program too.* Lopez has a lot on her plate, taking some graduate level courses and working with us leaves her no real free time but she's truly enjoying herself. She is eager to make a difference and pay it forward!



Just Because...

What would you do if you had one day to live? *I would have the biggest goodbye bash ever. My whole family and friends would be there. And, anything huge/cool/awesome/unimaginable would be there. It'd be exclusive, no randoms invited. VIP status.*

Favorite celebrity gossip blog or magazine *would have to be People or when I'm feeling mindless: Tim Richardson picture blog*

Best memory EVER: *First family vacation, we went to Cabo and I got to see my parents jet ski*

How do you represent your Latina Heritage in what you do or have accomplished? *I think that representing your heritage has to do with educating others about your culture, heritage, and race. Also, reaching out to Latinos that wouldn't ever think about education and encouraging them to go through with the whole process.*



...sky's the limit



**Yesenia Leon, CAMP Scholar 08-09
SAF (Student Action with Farmworkers)
Benson, North Carolina**

I landed this internship out of one of the many e-mails that Oscar Montemayor e-mails the CAMP list. I didn't think much of it when I applied, but I guess I was one of the lucky 23 chosen ones in the country! My internship was with North Carolina Farmworker Health Project. I was stationed in the rural town of Benson, North Carolina. My responsibilities as an intern included: entering data into a database that kept records of all the medical outreach encounters the office made, and in which I also assisted. The main focus of the medical assistance was to provide care for farmworkers that worked the tobacco, sweet potato, and poultry farms. From visiting the homes I realized that the majority lived in a very poor hygienic environment and were at great risk of sexually transmitted diseases from local prostitutes. While reaching out to the farmworkers we didn't only provide them with basic toiletries but we also gave them the opportunity to be tested for sexually transmitted diseases, and as part of our training we gave them a presentation on the prevention of the diseases and provided condoms. They also had the opportunity to be treated by a doctor at a low cost of \$5 per consultation for any health concern they had.

Another part of the internship was about helping out during the hours in which the farmworkers were seen. I had the opportunity to have a real hands-on experience that I never imagined I would get being this young in my career aspirations. Of course there are good and bad days just like any other medical setting. I had days when I could tell a patient that his worries could then be a thing of the past, but there was a day when I had to explain the harsh realities of what leukemia is to a patient.

Overall, I can say that I learned the most about myself. I enjoyed what the world has to offer on the other side of the country and the smiles of the entire hardworking farmers truly left a touch of inspiration in my heart.

Alumni: Where are they now?



Cristina Delgado, CAMP 2006
Pictured with Rigoberta Menchu during her visit to OSU in Spring of 2011

As an immigrant the journey has not been easy for Cristina, but with much dedication and commitment, she is the first in her family to graduate from college and pursue a Master's Degree. Cristina was accepted to the Master's Program of Public Administration at the University of Oregon. With the masters program she can effectively address the economic, political, and social issues affecting our society. She is very happy to be able to continue her education and to continue to grow as a person and as a professional. Her long-term goal is to be an activist and to be able to administer a non-profit organization that gives a voice to underrepresented communities.

"Thanks to my community, family, friends, and to the CAMP program I am now making a reality one of my biggest dreams, which was to graduate from college and to pursue a graduate education. Thank you, because without all of your support my dream would not have been possible."



David Cortez, CAMP 2006
Pictured during an OSU Football game at Reeser Stadium this Fall term

"As I am about to graduate this year my next step is the College Student Services Administration (CSSA) Master's program. This program is a two year program here at OSU, so I'm still going to be a Beaver. The program helps develop student's knowledge of student affairs and gain the necessary skills and abilities to be successful in the field. So what I am hoping to be is the next Oscar, Wendy... maybe even the next AMAS! Well, that's still long ways from now, but I know I will be attending OSU this fall and enjoying the raining days of this great wet, green, full of trees university."



CAMP: PEER-MENTOR PROGRAM

The overall goal of the College Assistance Migrant Program (CAMP) Peer Mentor Program is student retention. The CAMP mentoring program has been successful in the past years, we always have a good turnout of mentors that apply each year. We are always trying to make it a successful program each year. However, this year is going to be different than the past years because there will only be 12 mentors to mentor 35 Camp students the ratio for each mentor is 3:1. I think the challenging part about the program is matching up the mentors with mentees. Especially this year because we only had 12 mentors each mentor has 2 to 3 mentees. The reason we only have 12 mentors is because the Peer Mentors play an integral role in helping students adjust socially and academically to college life. Peer Mentors serve an incoming CAMP Scholar by encouraging and supporting the mentees' transition to the university environment. For the most part the matching was decided based on having similar interests, hobbies, and majors. Before the mentors met their respective mentees we had a mentor training workshop as well to allow them to be the best mentor they can be for their mentee. The first meeting went really well because we had a meet and greet activity. They had a lot of fun. We are excited for the activities that mentors and mentees will involve in, they'll have a chance to become acquainted throughout year.

2011 OREGON MIGRANT STUDENT LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE



This past summer, the CAMP Program hosted, for the third time, the Oregon Migrant Student Leadership Institute in July and August. About 150 migrant students came from 18 different school districts throughout the state for the weeklong event. The purpose of the Institute is to empower Oregon's migrant youth to become strong leaders in their schools and communities. Also, it allows participants to interact in a college environment to strengthen the belief that college is a reality for them. Participants were involved in a variety of hands-on activities on campus and off-campus. The Leadership Institute offered participants the opportunity to envision new possibilities in their future careers.

Many tears were shed on the last day of the Institute as students said goodbyes.

Participants Testimonials

"I remember trying to ignore my alarm to wake up because i didn't want to go. But when i got there I was really happy but scared but i loved it and had a great time. When it was the day to come back home i remember telling my leaders i didn't want to i really loved it there."

"Today is the last day at this institution and my skills as a leader and a team player have increased at a very drastic rate. I have learned to always stay positive, and become a better leader by being a more involved individual. This experience transformed me into another person that will help change this country in a positive way for the community."

Upcoming Events

- Oct. 6 @ 5:30 pm -Peer Mentor Program kick-off
- Oct. 22nd/23rd -Ashland Trip CAMP Scholars
- Oct. 24th-Nov 4th-Social Event on Campus
- Nov. 11th-Portland Winterhawks (hockey) Game
- Nov. 28th-Dec 2nd-End of Term Pot Luck and Mentor Follow-Up Training
- December 6th-9th- GOOD LUCK ON FINALS :)



August

Alejandro Escobedo Jr
Alejandra Gonzalez
Brenda-Olivera Gutierrez

September

Gabriela Garcia
Lucero Garcia Flores
Juana Gaytan
Guillerma Vasquez-Garcia

October

Juan Ahuatl
Mario Alvarez
Manuel Barocio
Efrain Cabrera
Jovany Herrera
Alejandra Mendoza
Raul Nuñez

December

Vianca Carrillo

AMAS' UPDATES

Last Wednesday, I was invited by the Portland Timbers (I love soccer) to attend their networking event at Jeld-Wen Stadium. At the event, someone asked me where I worked. I said *OSU*. “You’ve come far to attend this event?” she asked. The next question was: Do you know Juan Herrera (not real name)?” I responded, “Maybe, not sure...and she went on to say that Juan had attended the Migrant Leadership Institute last summer and the Institute had changed Juan’s view on higher education and that he was different and more motivated to finish high school. This conversation reminded me of a Facebook post from one of our Leadership Institute participants: *“I’m back from an awesome trip. In the last few days I learned so many things, and I met so many people; some of them who really change the way I look at this long road called life. THANK YOU OMLI, THANK YOU GUYS FOR ALL, I’M NEVER GOING TO FORGET ABOUT THIS GREAT EXPERIENCE.”*



This past summer has been one of the greatest summers (despite missing a free Alaskan Cruise), because we at OSU CAMP made a difference on many migrant young lives through the Migrant Leadership Institute. Because of this experience, many migrant youth see higher education as a real possibility and I’m glad we were part of that experience. We hope to see many of the participants at OSU in the near future.

On another note, this year, we have 35 new CAMP Scholars from 24 different high schools throughout the state. They seem to be very committed to their education and also they appear to be united as a group. They all participated in the CAMP Orientation Program in September, and because I was not able to participate in the Orientation, I am in the process of meeting with them on a one-to-one to learn more about them as well as to connect more frequently with them.

Lastly, we finally have a new Outreach/Retention Specialist! Her name is Melisa Lopez and she came to us from Eastern Oregon University. Melisa was a participant in CAMP in 2004-05. She graduated from OSU in 2008 with a degree in Human Development and Family Sciences (HDFS). She is also in the process of getting her Master’s in College Student Services Administration (CSSA). I appreciate her energy and willingness to go the extra mile to outreach our target population. Welcome home Melisa! Also, Roberto Trinidad, another CAMP alumni is helping us this term by providing support to Melisa with the Peer Mentor Program. Melisa and Roberto are already contributing to the success of our CAMP Program. We’re off to a good start this academic year!

Amas