Jessica Barriga is a CAMP Alumni that moved on to get her Bachelors of Science in Nursing (BSN, RN) from Linfield-Good Samaritan School of Nursing in Portland, OR. She is currently working at the Salem Hospital where the last couple of months has been a period of constant adjustment because of policies and protocols. Jessica thinks COVID-19 has reinforced that, pandemic or not, we NEED Latinx healthcare working to help take care of not only our community, but other communities of color.

Crystal Carrillo is another CAMP Alumni that graduated from OSU in 2011 and went on to the Accelerated Program with Linfield College in 2018. She is currently working in the Medical/Surgical Department at the Salem Health Hospital. COVID-19 has made her feel rushed with so many emotions reflecting on how much it has impacted her life as a nurse. She is scared, sad, but proud. There were a lot of day to day changes that it was hard to keep it straight. She had to be adaptive to being able to take in the information as well as continue with her cares keeping the patients and herself safe. Along with being afraid of the unknown, she was saddened with how her co-workers and patients were impacted.

Gaby Bustos Ramos is a 2nd year nursing student working on her BSN, 3-year program at OHSU Ashland Campus. Her dream is to be a Nurse Practitioner in either Women’s Health or Geriatrics. It has been very eventful for her learning how to perform nursing assessments, admitter medications, create career plans, and completing multiple clinical experiences. She is currently not doing any clinical sites, but rather partaking in virtual simulations working on different patients each week. COVID-19 has impacted how she balances schoolwork and selfcare – which included the change in her student routine, staying active, and finding motivation to finish the year from.

Aaron Lachino-Pinon will be graduating from OSU in June 2020 and will be attending OHSU for Winter 2021. He will be looking into becoming an RN and will eventually go back to become a Nurse Anesthetist. Fortunately, COVID-19 did not hinder or impact his application process.

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Karina Ruiz-Lopez, Switzerland
CAMP Scholar 2016

Karina completed a global health and development policy program. She was able to study global public health, human rights, and research methods and ethics. She was also included in an independent research project which she did on maternal health. During her time there, she lived in a small village called St. George in the countryside of Nyon – she attended class lectures in Nyon and briefings at different organizations in Geneva, Switzerland. Switzerland is divided into four different regions – a French, German, Italian and Romansh speaking region. This was very unique to her because you live in one region and travel to another, you find yourself experiencing a whole different culture from the food to the language. Cheese and chocolate are the two main staples of the Swiss culture. What surprised her the most was how reserved most people are – it is less likely that local people will smile or make conversation with strangers. In its way, it was a little more challenging to integrate into the local community. But her favorite part was studying with people who have similar interests and goals. Her biggest takeaway was having confidence.

Alejandro Saucedo, Spain
CAMP Scholar 2015

Alejandro studied with the Academic Program International (API). He studied abroad in Seville, Spain which is in the Southern region of Andalusia. He studied classes focusing on Spanish culture, society and history. Since he is a Political Science major, he was able to get credit for some of those classes during his time in Spain. His favorite was being able to learn about the Spanish transition to democracy after the death of Francisco Franco in 1975. The general schedule of society is what surprised Alejandro the most. Dinner is at 9pm or later and even after that, it was not uncommon to see people of all ages and backgrounds out and about in the city. The weather in Spain reminded him of Southern California which was a nice change for him. His favorite aspect was the architecture because cities are much more compact. His favorite experience was being able to meet up with a friend from Germany in Fes, Morocco and spent a week backpacking their way North back to Spain.
CAMP Alumni: Where Are They Now?

Saray Valdez – CAMP Scholar 2016
“Allow yourself to be vulnerable – CAMP can only help you if you ask to be helped.”

Saray was a part of the 2016 CAMP Cohort. During her time at OSU, she studied Earth Science with an option in Climate Science and will be graduated in June 2020. With her respected degree, she can go through multiple different career tracks – such as working for the government through organizations such as the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), NASA. Some might continue to academia and working as a researcher or professor at a university. Saray will be pursuing her PhD at OSU in the Ocean, Earth and Atmospheric Sciences program. She will be working with Dr. Peter Clark on standardizing past ocean sediment core data from journals in order to understand deglaciation events from hundreds of thousands years ago. She will be helping underrepresented student get involved with STEM as well. If it weren’t for CAMP, Saray says she would have dropped out of OSU within her first term of freshman year. From mentors, tutoring and even monetary assistance, CAMP helped her no matter what.

Daisy Altamirano – CAMP Scholar 2012
“Your education is something that can never be taken away.”

Daisy was a part of the 2012-13 CAMP Cohort. She studied Public Health during her time at OSU, but then moved on to earn a Bachelors of Biology-Human Health in 2019 at the Oregon Institute of Technology. After earning her degree from OIT, Daisy is now working full-time with the Department of Human Services in Klamath Falls and she is also enrolled at Southern Oregon University working on a Master’s of Business with a focus in Health Care Administration. CAMP was a very exciting time of her college career – it was her family away from home. There were always people around that she felt comfortable with being herself Her advice for CAMP Members today would be to take your time and learn as much as you can about everything.
While I write my part, this 2019-20 academic year is over and also just finished doing exit interviews with all CAMP students. Definitely, this year has been an interesting year because of COVID-19. Because OSU decided to move to remote teaching, all spring term CAMP events and workshops we had planned for our students had to be cancelled.

From my exit interviews, I am excited that most of our students will successfully complete their first year in college and all of them will be returning for their second year. In addition, it was validating to hear that all services provided were very helpful for their first-year experience. Most of the students highly rated the tutoring, mentoring, and academic counseling as services that were helpful to them. It’s worth pointing out that this cohort was the only group to increase their GPA from fall to winter and I’m hoping it continues to increase the overall GPA from winter to spring.

As this group starts exiting from CAMP, we are also getting ready for the new group of 38 incoming students for 2020-2021. We received close to 70 complete eligible applicants and it was rather difficult to select the students with the highest academic and financial need. Our first service with the incoming cohort begins with the START Bilingue program and we are excited to meet them and their families on June 28th. Also, as new participants arrive, some CAMP alumni will be leaving this year. This year, around 24 past CAMP students are graduating with their degrees. I am proud of their accomplishments! Our “El CAMPestre” editor will be one of those students graduating this year. Estrella Gutierrez-Leon has also worked as CAMP Office Assistant and Tutor Coordinator. This is the last issue she worked on. Estrella has done a great job on writing, editing, interviewing, and collecting information for “El CAMPestre.” I wish her good luck on her future plans, and she’ll be missed greatly.

Summer will soon be upon us. CAMP with the collaboration of 4-H and Fisheries and Wildlife will be hosting the Migrant Middle school Summer Camp, four Migrant Student Leadership Institutes and the Environmental Leadership Youth for Watershed Science Camp in July and August. I am excited for these collaborations with other agencies that provide services to migrant students. I look forward to an eventful summer.