



# EL CAMPeStre

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## María Andrade - New CAMP Director

A graduate of Oregon State University, born in Zacatecas, Mexico, raised in Sweet Home, Oregon meet our new CAMP director, Maria Andrade. Maria graduated in 2006 with a major in Business Administration with an option in Accounting and is currently working towards her Masters in Business Administration (MBA). She is not a new face with the CAMP program as she was previously known as the Administrative Program Assistant and has been working with CAMP for 15 years. Following her undergrad, she started working in a bank and quickly realized it was not what she wanted to do. Once she saw that



there was a position for a bilingual program assistant with CAMP she took a leap of faith. She had never heard of the program before and applied with the hopes she would be able to use her Spanish to help others. She took the job with the expectations that she would stay for about 5 years and after getting experience she would leave. Little did she know this “leap of faith” was not going to be a part of her 5-year plan, it was going to go on for much longer. Maria worked with our previous CAMP director, Amas, he always pushed her and gave her opportunities to learn beyond her role as an assistant to the program. Her experience working with Amas will help her continue the success of the program and new ways to bring awareness to OSU community and throughout the state of Oregon.

Aside from her job with CAMP, she is a family-oriented person with three kids: 2 boys and 1 girl. She’s a proud mother of a middle schooler, a son in elementary, and a kindergartener. With the new job title, master's program, and her family, her detail-oriented approach and organization skill, along with self-care help her stay focused and able to multi-task. Her new job as the CAMP director requires more meetings

and more decisions being made on her part. Although the job itself requires more time with evening or weekend events, she tries to keep both sides of her life separate by not checking her email and such outside of work.

Maria is excited about this new position with CAMP and said that even after working with CAMP for 15 years she has never dreaded going to work and that she loves her job. One of her favorite parts of her job is seeing the students who are part of CAMP graduate, have children, start businesses, and continue to stay in touch with them. Maria is a family-oriented person and we as a CAMP program are lucky to be brought into her CAMP family.

**“Use your resources, especially the CAMP staff. That is why we are here and we all love getting to know students and their families.”**

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## CAMP Alumni: Where Are They Now?

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### **Josue Gonzalez Peña – CAMP Scholar 2012**

Josue Gonzalez Peña graduated from Oregon State University in 2016 with a degree in BioHealth Sciences. He was born and raised in Jalisco, Mexico, and moved to Salem, Oregon when he was 10 years old. Before attending Oregon State University, he was unsure of what exactly he wanted to do but he always had a feeling leaning towards something medical-related.

During his junior year at OSU, he decided to focus on

Optometry. After his undergrad, he took a year off school to work as a medical interpreter and started professional school at Pacific University the following year. He is now in his fourth and final year of optometry school which consists of four 3-month externships at varying eye clinics, hospitals, and institutions. He was expected to graduate in May of 2021 and from

there was planning to be relocated to a town 25 minutes north of Portland Oregon where he will start his professional career as an Optometrist. He thanks the CAMP program for the academic support that they provided during his time at OSU as well as for introducing Jose to some new long-life friends. He stated, “CAMP helped me navigate some of the difficult times we all face as first-generation college students”. I believe we as a CAMP program can look up to Josue Gonzalez Pena as a prime example of a first-generation college student reaching his goals academically and professionally.



**“It’s easy to feel discouraged when you step out of your comfort zone but that’s truly where you start to find yourself. Don’t forget that at the end of the day you are your own biggest investment so don’t forget to take care of yourself and do the things that make you happy.”**

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### **Melinda Guzman-Martinez – CAMP Scholar 2011**



Melinda Guzman-Martinez graduated with a B.S. Microbiology with a minor in Chemistry and Spanish from Oregon State University in 2016. Melinda always had a fascination with plants and after the third year of her undergraduate career after taking a plant pathology course, she realized that plants could also get sick and quickly fell in love with the material. After completing her bachelor's she continued and finished her master's and received an M.S. Botany and Plant Pathology in 2019. During her master's program in Plant Pathology, she closely studied viruses associated with raspberry leaf curl disease. She also had multiple opportunities to travel and present her research in conferences while also learning about other research areas within the plant pathology field. Once she was at the end of her Master's program at OSU, Melinda applied to a Plant Pathology Ph.D. program at the University of Georgia where she would be set to study bacteria in blueberries. She now resides in Athens, Georgia where she is a graduate research assistant. Melinda's research focuses on a bacteria called *Xylella fastidiosa* subsp. *Multiplex* that infects blueberries. Her daily routine consists of making trips to the greenhouse every two days to evaluate *Xylella*-infected blueberry plants for disease progression. Besides visiting the greenhouse, she attends hybrid classes and works on other portions of her research at the University of Georgia-Athens.

Melinda was a part of the 2011-2012 CAMP cohort and she hopes to leave current and upcoming CAMP students with this piece of advice –

**“Attending college is a transformative time —make connections with your fellow CAMP cohort, seek opportunities to volunteer/do research, and do not be afraid to ask for help!”**

## Marisol C. Mendoza – CAMP Scholar 2007

Marisol Mendoza was a member of the 2007-2008 CAMP cohort as well as a part of the CSI program at Oregon State University. She majored in Exercise and Sports Science with a pre-allied health option. After her time at Oregon State University, she received her Doctorate in Physical Therapy and graduated from George Fox University in 2015.

During the last year and a half in this worldwide pandemic, Marisol chose to leave her full-time position at a local hospital and opened a private cash-based practice in Fruitland, Idaho. Marisol is a Manual Orthopedic Physical Therapist with a special interest in pelvic/hip/spine dysfunctions. In the years to come she hopes to expand her business and hopes to hire another physical therapist to her team. Currently, she works alongside two Massage Therapists and a Certified Midwife, where they collaborate on new ideas that can be beneficial to the community, specifically to women. With work aside, Marisol has a passion for her family and is married with two kids, has two cats and a small herd of beef cattle. She married an OSU CAMPster, Ruben Mendoza, and enjoys the flexibility her job gives her so she can spend time with her children and husband. She currently works three days a week and sees around 8 patients each for 45-50 minutes. Since leaving the local hospital and starting her own business, Marisol is loving her flexible work schedule with minimal paperwork and bookkeeping. Her business is called Sol Physiotherapy LLC in Fruitland, Idaho, feel free to show support for one of our CAMP Alumni, Marisol Mendoza PT, DPT.



**“Being afraid is a part of the journey but don't let yourself be held back by fear because there is so much to look forward to! Soak everything in, have fun but don't forget WHY you are seeking higher education and the impact you can create in your family and community!”**

## Recognition / Graduation



<u>January</u>	<u>April</u>	<u>June</u>
Quetza J.	Alicia M.	Danilo G.
Jose A.	Dilma L.	Evania B.
	Carmen G.	
<u>February</u>	Elizabeth P.	<u>July</u>
Gisselle G.	Adileni V.	Clarissa M.
William M.	Aileen C.	Brianna C.
Karla H.		Jorge N.
Joana H.	<u>May</u>	
Keila M.	Andrea G.	<u>August</u>
	Edith F.	Susana G.
<u>March</u>	Jennifer M.	Daniela M.
Anayeli C.		



Left: CAMP Recruiter and Academic Counselor model what our CAMP alum graduates receive.



Right: Current campees stop by to pick up their certificates and take a picture with the youngest member of the CAMP family.

# María's Updates

Well, we survived a whole year of distance learning and working from home due to the pandemic! This year has been a challenging one but also a great learning experience for both students and staff. This is my first issue as Director of the program and the transition has been smooth. As you read in the article, I definitely have a lot more meetings than my previous position as the administrative assistant, however I am learning a lot and enjoying my new role.

Through the pandemic our students continued to work hard and finish strong. We have record breaking grades this year even with the extra challenges of studying from home. Students had to take on extra responsibilities in their families and had more distractions in their study spaces but stayed focused. In fall we had the highest GPA in 17 years of 3.45, which went up to 3.52 winter term. Spring term, which is always a challenge, ended with a 3.03 but still higher than previous years. The staff is very proud!!

Though we were not able to celebrate these accomplishments or our graduates, the staff set time aside for students to stop by and pick up their certificates and graduation goodies that they would normally receive at our End of the Year Recognition Ceremony. I'd like to also give a shout out to one of our current students, Misael Torres-Pimentel, who received the HEP/CAMP Internship and is serving with The Congressional Hispanic Leadership Institute (CHLI) in Washington, DC. Though the internship is remote, he hopes to be able to visit DC in the future.

As we finish this academic year, the work never stops. Our recruiter and academic counselor have been busy meeting with incoming camp students to get them prepared for 2021-22. The Oregon Tour was done remote but spending a couple hours with each students going over financial aid, housing, classes, and answering questions is very helpful for students and their families.

CAMP is once again excited to host the Migrant Leadership Institute (MLI) this summer and have three great options for high school migrant students. This summer we will continue one week of MLI and one week of Environmental Leadership for Youth (ELY). We are also excited for a new collaboration with College of Agricultural Science hosting a week of Migrant Jr. MANRRS. The summer programs will end with a week of fun Kahoot learning with the Migrant Middle School Institute.

Finally, I want to thank the staff for the great work they continued to do and our student mentor and tutors. During exit interviews, students still rated the Peer Mentor Program as the most beneficial. Also, our writer, Karla, for her handwork this year on the newsletter. There were obstacles that came up, but she did an amazing job!



## Upcoming Events

July 12-16: Oregon Migrant Leadership

July 19-22: Migrant Environmental Leadership for Youth

July 26-30 : Migrant Jr. MANRRS

August 2-6: Migrant Middles School Institute

September 12-16: CAMP Summer Bridge

**More Information at:**

**<https://camp.oregonstate.edu/omli>**

EL CAMPestre is the newsletter for OSU's College Assistance Migrant Program.

Design & News Editor

Karla Hernandez

Director

Maria Andrade

541.737.2389

Maria.Andrade@oregonstate.edu

Outreach & Recruitment

Angel Esiquio Ruiz

541.737.3909

Angel.EsiquioRuiz@oregonstate.edu

Academic Counselor

Alexandra Cortés

541.737.3911

Alexandra.Cortes@oregonstate.edu