



## ***CAMP Cohorts '20 and '21: Transition to Oregon State***

There comes a time in a young person's life where they can make the decision to continue their education after high school. Whether that be going to college or pursuing other forms of education elsewhere. This transition can be difficult for those who have no knowledge or experience. In March 2020, a global pandemic would put a pause to college and social interaction. The academic world switched from in person classes to having everything remote. This transition took a toll on many students as well as created uncertainty. For the graduating class of 2020 this meant that their last few months of high school would not be spent in person. Which, for many, is typically the time to prepare yourself for what is to come in the future. Nonetheless, they continued. After filling out the necessary applications, many students had to do this process alone. Starting your college journey in the midst of a pandemic was a common experience for both CAMP Cohort's of 2020-2021 and 2021-2022. Although the situation can differ depending on the class and student, this is something that will tie these two cohorts together for the rest of their lives. Thankfully there are programs that strive to help first students in order for them to have the smoothest transition possible from high school to college. CAMP is one of those programs that makes an effort to provide educational and support opportunities to those who come from migrant households.

The incoming OSU class of 2025 was able to come into the university with in person classes. For many of them this would have been the first time since March 2020 that they were able to be in person again. Omar Escobedo from Hood River, Oregon joined beaver nation this year studying Civil Engineering. With the help of CAMP and his older siblings he was able to have a fairly smooth transition into college. Although he is enjoying his time being independent, one his most recent struggles was being able to balance out his school work and social time. Another challenge that Omar had to overcome was the fear of asking for help when he needed it. Being a civil engineering major, there were a lot of difficult concepts to understand and this term he stepped out of his comfort zone to ask for assistance. Another first year college student also from Hood River Oregon is Alan Rodriguez studying Construction Engineering. Alan had an open mind entering college, he was able to transition smoothly into his life away from home and besides the casual hiccups his journey is going smooth. One of the most challenging aspects of his first year at Oregon State was having good time management skills, specifically in the mornings. Having to juggle a college schedule and find out when he was going to be able to have meals in between has been something he has had to learn through trial and error. One thing he would've told himself before starting his first year would be to not say no as much and be willing to try new things.

The CAMP Cohort '20 have gone through a lot together. From computer screens and zoom calls to occasionally meeting up in areas where they could social distance.

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# CAMP Cohorts '20 and '21 continued...

CAMP gave it their all in order for students to have little bits of normal in their first year of college. Although there were very minimal classes being held in person, the option to stay in the residence halls on campus was available for anyone who wished to. Many of the CAMP Cohort made the decision to stay at home in the midst of the pandemic and start their college experience in the comforts of their home. Quetza Juarez and Danilo Gutierrez Cornejo were two students who ultimately decided to give the campus a try. Quetza is a Human Development and Family Studies major from The Dalles, Oregon. One of the main things Quetza was excited for this year was to finally be in person with her classes and be living on her own. After being on zoom for the last two years one thing that Quetza found challenging was having to socialize with the world again. The overall transition from high school to college was a bit nerve wracking for her. She felt slightly unprepared with the financial aspect of college living on your own as well as smaller details you normally learn from a regular year of school like when/where to look for an apartment and balancing life. Danilo Gutierrez Cornejo is a second year student majoring in Chemical Engineering. He is currently interested in the pharmaceutical world, specifically in creating and refining processes for different types of medicine. Similar to most of the students in the high school graduating class of 2020, he felt as though he missed out on a lot of the typical first year of college and was excited to finally meet some of the expectations that he had about OSU. The transition from online to in-person was a bit rocky since he wasn't as prepared as he hoped for in person exams and the amount of time he needed to study before them. As many students can relate, the overall time management aspect of remote learning versus in person was a major jump.

Although students went to classes and showed up to online club meetings, a lot of people weren't expecting to schedule out menial tasks throughout their day like eating, cleaning, and having a social life outside of class. Between juggling your classes, extracurricular activities, and life, it can take time for people to find a balance. The class cohorts of 2020-21 and 2021-22 have been doing their best with what they were given. One of the major takeaways from the last two years in this pandemic is to take life day by day and to go into things with an open mind. Although this experience has not been the typical start to college and life after high school. It is important to remember that we are all going through these unprecedented times together.



<u>July</u>	<u>October</u>	<u>December</u>
Miriam A.	Alan R.	Jose S.
Jacqueline E.	Ximena N.	Omar E.
Carina V.	Juan C.	David B.
	America P.	Lizet C.
	Eric R.	Ricardo C.
		Fatima V.
<u>August</u>	<u>November</u>	
Marlenne M.	Miguel S.	
Julio F.	Marlin P.	
	Erik V,	
<u>September</u>	Fischer K.	
Eduardo C.	Eric G.	
	Kenia C.	



CAMP Cohort 2021-2022 on their first day at Oregon State University. Students and parents arrive two weeks before classes begin to participate in the week-long Summer Bridge program. They are introduced to resources, participate in teambuilding activities, and familiarize themselves with the University before the additional 25,000 student arrive at OSU. Families we're able to help their kids move-in and meet the CAMP staff and mentors that will be working with the students throughout the year.

# CAMP Alumni: Where Are They Now?

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## Kellie Zepeda – CAMP Scholar 2017

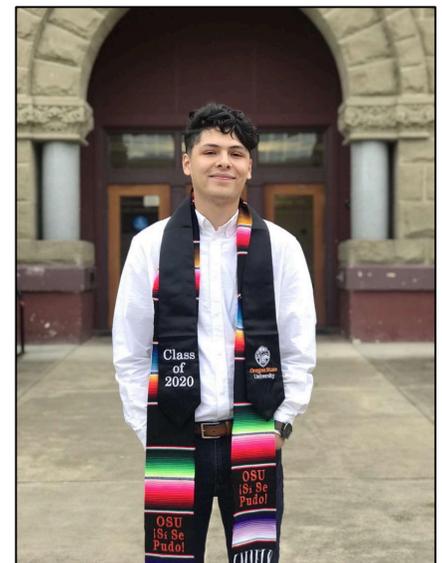


Kellie Zepeda graduated Oregon State University in June 2021 with a bachelor's degree in Kinesiology optioning in Pre-Therapy & Allied Health; Summa Cum Laude. She is currently studying at Western University of Health Sciences pursuing her Doctoral degree in Physical Therapy. She is from Hermiston, Oregon, known as the “Watermelon Farming Town” and has seen first hand how migrant farm work has impacted her life. She was inspired to keep pushing through her academic journey with the help of her family, friends, and support system. She remembers growing up seeing her family put their blood, sweat, and tears into work in order to get her to where she is. This helped her find strength to overcome any obstacles her way. Gathering important skills from her parents like being empathic, a hard worker, and not being afraid of challenges helped her continuously strive to be a better version of herself. She is continuously reaching out to others for resources to help her become a successful physical therapist and a proud representation of her Latinx community. Although there is a rigorous coursework when it comes to PT school she is now in her second semester and finds herself absorbing so much information every day. In the future Kellie aspires to work in a rural area like the one she grew up in. She believes with her multicultural background she will be able to enhance the American Physical Therapy Association's commitment to fostering a culture of diversity, equity, and inclusion within her community. Kellie leaves one piece of advice to those who are in their undergrad: **“Take more initiative to expand your community of support. You will find yourself in situations in which you are comfortable and that’s fine. Yet, you grow in situations that make you uncomfortable. You’ll realize that you’ll gravitate towards people that also have high aspirations and become allies in your endeavors.”**

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## Rodrigo Fernandez Ortega – CAMP Scholar 2016

Rodrigo Fernandez-Ortega graduated Oregon State University in 2020 with a bachelor's degree in Political Science and Spanish minor. He is currently a law student at Willamette University and aspires to work in immigration law and civil legal aid. He always wanted to be an immigration attorney and through his time with CAMP and his cohort of 2016-2017 he was able to see the migrant communities of his peers and their experiences with legal services. He saw that in many rural areas like his own it is very difficult to get access to legal help. Rodrigo continued to have his community and the communities from CAMP in his mind throughout his educational journey. He was given the opportunity to work in an immigration office in his hometown, Hood River, where he was able to aid in the process of accessing legal services to his migrant community. Currently his daily life consists of attending classes at the College of Law at Willamette University in Salem, Oregon. One of the differences he has seen between his undergrad and law school is the style of lectures. In one of his average classes at Willamette University the professors “cold call” random students. This is where students are randomly chosen to explain cases and the law to the rest of the class. Besides class, Rodrigo works at the campus library at the circulation desk, studies with peers, and in his free time he enjoys running, playing soccer, or spending time with friends. Rodrigo is the first in his family to graduate high school and college, he hopes he can inspire his younger family to follow in his footsteps.



**“Years at OSU really do fly by. It is a great time to try new things.”**

## **Brenda Tellez – CAMP Scholar 2015**



Brenda Tellez graduated from Oregon State University in 2019 with a degree in Kinesiology and is currently a Doctor of Physical Therapy student at OSU-Cascade in Bend, Oregon. Brenda was a part of the 2015-2016 CAMP cohort and holds the experiences she had and the program very close to her heart. After her undergrad, Brenda was able to dig deeper into her intended career by working alongside a Physical Therapist as an aide. She was able to grow within her experience at an outpatient clinic, hospitals, and working with Hispanic communities. Through all this Brenda's passion for the medical field and Physical Therapy was reassured and she knew that this career was truly meant for her. Like many can relate, the last two years of Brenda's life has been a constant obstacle to say the least. In the Summer of 2020, she had a loss in her family and her 13-year old sister passed away. In the midst of the pandemic where the outside world was changing, the smaller world of Brenda Tellez changed drastically. Through adversity, Brenda continued to push for her educational journey and is now starting her clinical rotations where she works in clinics and applies what she has been learning. With her continuation at OSU Cascades she plans on finishing her Doctoral degree in 2024. ***"Sometimes school does not prepare you for things you think are going to be most important in life. Don't be afraid to fail, get creative and focus on the process."*** A note for those interested in PT school: "You have what it takes to become a Physical Therapist. It won't be easy getting into school and once you get there, it will be difficult. Make connections with others who are interested in PT, join clubs like the PTAH and volunteer for programs at school, such as IMPACT and MS Clinic. Ask for help in classes, get creative with your learning, and most importantly have fun. If you have any further questions, feel free to reach out to me at [tellezb@oregonstate.edu](mailto:tellezb@oregonstate.edu)."

## **Miguel Paniagua Rodriguez – CAMP Scholar 2013**

From Forest Grove, Oregon, Miguel Paniagua graduated from Oregon State University in June 2018 with a bachelor's degree in Kinesiology and a minor in Psychology. He is currently in his second year of PT school at University of Washington in the Doctor of Physical (DPT) program. The inspiration of becoming a Physical Therapist stemmed from his parents and the rigorous work that they were in. He says he remembered his parents coming home from work with pain and no connection to any physical therapist to help them. Miguel also saw that in many hospitals he worked at there was a need for Spanish speaking medical professionals which helped motivate him to continue his studies. After completing his undergrad in 2018, Miguel worked as a PT Aide at OHSU Hillsboro Medical Center where he received his clinical hours by assisting physical therapists with patients who had issues after major surgeries. During this time is when the COVID-19 pandemic started and Miguel had the opportunity to work alongside his mentors and help patients who were fighting the COVID-19 virus. Now that Miguel is enrolled in PT school. His daily schedule consists of lecture classes and labs where he is able to practice different techniques needed within the field. In his free time Miguel enjoys going to the gym, playing guitar, and exploring the beautiful city of Seattle. Miguel hopes to leave current and incoming students with this piece of advice: ***"making mistakes offer the best learning opportunities and that you become a better student when you step out of your comfort zone."*** *CAMP connected me with peers and faculty who shared a similar background as I did, who accepted me, and supported me throughout my time at OSU. This really made college fun and gave me people to rely on during tough circumstances. Till this day, I consider some of these individuals lifelong friends. With no doubt CAMP was a second family to me.*



# María's Updates

It has been a busy year so far, being back in person. The staff and students were all very excited to connect face to face and interact as group. Some have made the hard decision to continue move away from home and continue their education. We see the difficult decisions especial when families are still struggling through the pandemic. But as always we see the resiliency in our students.

This year's cohort also consisted of two out-of-state students from California and from Alaska. Adding to an already hard year, these students pay more for tuition but still manage to do well and persevere. Through the pandemic our students continued to work hard and finish Fall term strong. The cohort finished the term with a 3.27 average GPA. Out of the 37 students 26 completed over 3.0, 18 of them had over 3.50 and 3 ended their first term with a 4.0 GPA. The staff is very proud!!

As we slowly start to go back to having in person events, we see the excitement it brings to the group. The cohort enjoyed our Summer Bridge connecting with other students and staff as well as learning about all the resources on campus. We welcomed back the CAMP alumni with our traditional Welcome Back Dinner, held at el Centro Cultural Cesar Chavez where students were able to connect and staff were able to meet students from 20-21 for the first time.

As the current cohort settles in, our recruiter begins to recruit for the following academic year 2022-23. With high schools slowly opening and accepting visitors, Angel has been able to participate in some in-person presentations to high school. We will be accepting 35 students for the incoming cohort.

As our work never stops, CAMP once again hosted the Migrant Summer Programs in July. Though virtual, the session went very well. We hosted our traditional Migrant Leadership Institute (OMLI) and continued with the Environmental Leadership for Youth (ELY). A new partnership with the College of Agricultural Sciences allowed for a new session of Migrant Jr. MANRRS. The summer programs will end with a week of fun Kahoot learning with the Migrant Middle School Institute.

I want to thank the staff for the great work as we transitioned back to in-person. The staff as well as students staff dove right in and made the best out of all the uncertainty. We have eight mentors and six tutors working with the students. This provided a great experience for the students. We are excited for Winter term and hopefully continue our in-person events and activities we all enjoy as a group!



## Upcoming Events

January 12: Welcome Back Pozole

February 4-5: Northwest CAMP Consortium – CoolSpeak (Virtual)

February 17-18: USHLI (Virtual)

February 25: Honor Roll Celebration

March 5: CAMP Peer Mentor Snow Tubing Event

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

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