Maria Andrade-Diaz: More than an Administrative Assistant

Maria Andrade has been the Administrative Assistant for CAMP for the last 9 years. Maria graduated from Oregon State in 2006 with a Bachelor’s in Business and an option in accounting. She married Joaquin the year after graduation and they started their family sometime after. They currently have three children, Joaquin, Alejandro, and the newest member, Elena. They live close to Corvallis which makes it easy for Maria to take care of her children and go to work. 

“Amas has always been understanding and flexible with my family and job. Where else do you find a boss like him?”

Maria had envisioned herself working at a bank with her degree in business. Shortly after graduation, she found a full time job at a bank. This experience made her realize that was not what she wanted to do. She decided to look for new experiences and gain new skills. That is when she came across the Administrative Assistant position for the College Assistance Migrant Program (CAMP). She came into this position not knowing much about CAMP; she just knew she had all the requirements. It wasn’t until Maria began working for CAMP that she learned about the program and what it entitled. “This is such an amazing program and I wish they had this program when I was a student.”

Maria did not think she would be working for CAMP for very long either, but she’s just had her nine year anniversary working for the program this last October. She really enjoys that balance between doing office work as well as being able to interact with the students. Maria has always enjoyed doing all the behind the scenes work. The spotlight has never been her strong point. Maria does such an amazing job working for the CAMP program. She is the person who manages the budget for CAMP, the payroll for the student workers, she is in charge of filling out the paperwork for the newly hired student staff, she manages the reservations and traveling agenda for all trips, she is in charge of the programming and coordinating for Oregon Migrant Leadership Institute (OMLI), organizing the recognition ceremony every year, she maintains all student files, works on the webpage and facebook, and does so much more. Laura Mondragon, the Outreach and Retention Coordinator for CAMP states, “Getting to work closely with [Maria] has made me realize how tough it would be to work without her. She is amazing at all she does and continues to put so much love and effort in the work she does. Not to mention what a great mother she is to her children.”
CAMP ORIENTATION

CAMP orientation this year was different than the past CAMP orientations. Classes began on a Thursday this year, causing orientation to happen over the weekend. This put a limit on reserving classrooms and having professional availability. Nevertheless, these students were still able to get most of the information they needed before school started. They were able to figure out where their classes were and had the opportunity to meet a variety of professional staff on campus. The students along with the CAMP Peer Ambassador (aka CAMP mentors) were able to get to know each other and get comfortable with one another before the school year started. This year CAMP will be having five new mentors and only one returning mentor. Eloy Hernandez is the returning mentor, while Miguel Paniagua, Vicky Antunez, Cristian Reyes, Lorena Ambriz, and Eddie Rodriguez are the new CAMP Peer Ambassadors. There were a total of 33 students at the beginning of the program, but CAMP was able to recruit 5 more students, leaving them with 38 CAMP scholars for the 2015/2016 school year.

OREGON MIGRANT LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE (OMLI)

The Oregon Migrant Leadership Institute (OMLI) hosted approximately 180 high school students this year. These students came in from many cities in Oregon. Some came from as far as Nyssa, others came from as close as Salem, and the rest came from everywhere in-between. The program ran for three weeks with a different set of students every week. Although all of these students come from the same migrant background, not two of these students share the same story. They all have different struggles, but they all have that same sparkle for wanting to reach the American Dream. The beauty of this program is seeing the change in these students’ attitudes from the beginning of the week to the end of the week. OMLI gives them that little push that endures and motivates them to believe in themselves and pursue the American Dream.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- February 5 - 4H trip
- February 18 - USHLI
- March 4 - CAMP Consortium
**ALUMNI...WHERE ARE THEY NOW??**

**Peter Banuelos** had health issues that prevented him from graduating with his CAMP class in 2006. His health issues also made him realize that what he wanted to do was become a writer and a teacher, thus Peter graduated from Oregon State in 2011 with a Bachelor’s Degree in English with a minor in Writing. He later received his Master’s Degree in Interdisciplinary Studies in 2015. Since graduation, he assisted an instructor to get an understanding of what it would be like to instruct and teach in a community college setting and focus on assisting students that want to receive their GEDs, primarily non-traditional Latinx students. He still holds this position in the Linn Benton Community College. His wife and his child reside with him in the Corvallis area. He plans to eventually move to the Salem/Keizer area to stay close to his parents and siblings. He would also like to work at the Chemeketa Community College and instruct courses focused on either GED or basic writing. He wants to continue to aid non-traditional and underserved students. Along with teaching, he would like to continue collaborating on creative projects to work on children’s books. In addition, he want to publish his own novel, a book that is made up of many short stories. “Writing is my creative outlet and something that I’ll always love. Teaching, however, isn’t just a job or a way to pay bills. Teaching is a way for me to reach my community and support those in need, to share my knowledge, and prepare students to reach their own personal goals.”

**Leticia Rodriguez** was a CAMP graduate in 2009 and an Oregon State graduate in 2013. She received her bachelor’s in Human Development and Family Sciences with a minor in Public Health. Since graduation, she has been involved with the Corvallis community by volunteering at local events and being involved with Casa Latinos Unidos. Working as a Health Navigator at the Benton County Health Department. She worked with low-income, underrepresented families and mostly Latino families to facilitate their access and participation in social service programs. She is currently a full time student at Portland State University (PSU), pursuing a Master’s in Public Health. She is working a part time position at PSU as the Assistant Coordinator for Latinx Student Services and is also a Graduate Research Assistant at the School of Community Health. As much as she loves the Willamette Valley, she is considering a career in Eastern Oregon after receiving her MPH. growing up in Eastern Oregon made her aware of the need for health equity in that area. “I am passionate about addressing health inequities and working with immigrant communities. I hope to be part of an organization that focuses on addressing root causes of health disparities.”

**Lorena Ambriz** had an amazing opportunity to study abroad in London, England this summer. She, along with 12 other Oregon State students, was given the opportunity through the College of Liberal Arts. It was a three week program and took place in London, England. London is one of the busiest cities in the world with the population of 10 million people. London is also one of the most diverse cities in the world. The program was led by Oregon State faculty. They were able to study the amazing museums, along with the justice agencies and prison systems. “This was definitely one of the best and unforgettable experiences of my life. I know I will visit London soon; London is a city that was made for me.”

**Shesly Zamora** was able to fulfill her dream of studying abroad this last summer. She had to opportunity to study abroad in Zamora, Spain on a six week IE3 Global program. This program included twelve other colleagues coming from Southern Oregon and Lewis and Clark College. The intensive program was focused on Spanish culture, history, and folklore dance courses. She experienced living with a host mom, Remedios (or Meyos for short). She highly enjoyed Meyos’s cooking and humor. It helped her miss home a little less. Shesly was able to intern for a small gift shop business and expand their marketing both locally and globally. Spending times with all those folks helped her learn vocabulary from the prideful Zamoranos. The heat waves coming in from Africa were an exhausting part of the trip. The group she went with always tried searching for some shade (excitingly yelling out ¡sombras! when shade was found) during excursions. “After the intensive six weeks of studying and excursion days it was bitter-sweet feeling saying my good-byes because I was leaving Zamora but then spending a week in Paris and coming back home was the cherry on top to my summer.”

**CAMP SCHOLARS GO ABROAD!!!**
Welcome to the fall issue of “El CAMPeatre” newsletter. CAMP had a full summer in 2015. The news of the grant renewal for the TRiO SSS programs was at the top of things I was thankful for during this summer because I also oversee the two TRiO SSS programs. We did also bring over 150 migrant students for the Oregon Migrant Leadership Institute. As in past years, the three weeks were tiring, but worth it because of the opportunity to meet and help high school migrant youth. CAMP will continue to host the OMLI in 2016. The second cohort group of this grant cycle began their college experience by attending the START Bilingue program end of June along with their families. It is always exciting to see the student’s families involved in their education. This year we have 38 CAMP scholars from over 22 high schools represented throughout the state. We have a strong group of students willing to academically succeed. I’m looking forward to see their fall term grades soon. The 2014-15-student cohort seems very promising.

Silver Falls: First CAMP

This year’s CAMP cohort had their first event together on November 14. CAMP took these students on a hiking adventure out in Silver Falls. They split up by their mentor groups and explored the wonders of the Silver Falls. This was a great opportunity for the groups to bond and really get to know each other. This was an especially great opportunity for the students who joined CAMP late to get to bond with the entire cohort. They hiked for a good two hours. CAMP then treated them to a meal at Olive Garden. The event was definitely a success.