



EL CAMPeStre

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“It is all about connections.”

In 2009, Yesenia Castro-Guzman began her journey of growth by joining the CAMP family. Throughout her undergraduate studies, Yesi made a point of building connections. She once was told “It is all about connections.”, and from there, she would go on to accomplish great things.

From volunteering to participating in internship positions, Yesi worked hard outside of her studies. Her dedication paid off after graduating with a Bachelor of Science in Public Health in 2013. Right after graduation, she had two job opportunities awaiting her, but she wanted some time off. After a month of being home in Hood River, Oregon, she turned down both jobs because she felt passionate about working for an organization in her own hometown. She began dropping off resumes and soon after got a call back from a nonprofit organization she felt strongly about.



Although initially she was worried about the qualifications they were seeking, she was pleasantly surprised to be hired as the Project Manager for Mid-Colombia Health Equity. This organization is a health program specializing in providing better health outcomes for the Latinx community in the Gorge, specifically farm-working and low-income individuals. Through this line of work, Yesi made an impact in her community. Her position allowed her to work with government officials to provide health equity for the Latinx people. Not only did she work to provide her community with basic health essentials, but she also worked as a Hike Leader for Latinxplorers and provided an experience that helped better health as well as provide a hobby that some may not have access to partake in. In her words, “It really was all a dream.”.

Now, Yesi’s dream continues to grow as she is currently living and working in Aomori, Japan. She holds an International Relations title and is learning about a whole new culture. There are many things for her to do and with her own car and apartment, Yesi is living her best life. She continues to make a difference and gets to interact with new co-workers, any foreign visitors at her work, and local children who she gets to teach English. She continues to step out of her comfort zone and pushes herself to try new things. Currently, she enjoys driving around, hiking, exploring, and most recently she has joined the Taiko Club (a Japanese drum club). Her adventure in Japan will come to an end this Summer, but in the meanwhile she plans to backpack through China, Taiwan, and The Philippines. Yesi’s journey is one that the CAMP family is proud to recognize. Her advice to us is to leave things behind that don’t bring us happiness.

In this issue:

Yesenia Castro Guzman
PAGE 2

Study Abroad Trips
PAGE 2

Upcoming Events
PAGE 2

Birthdays
PAGE 2

CAMP Alumni: Where are they now?
PAGE 3

Blazer’s Game & USHLI
PAGE 3

Amas’ Updates
PAGE 4

continued on page 2

CAMP Scholars Go Abroad



Yesenia Castro Guzman –
continued from page 1...

To focus on what we want to accomplish and feed relationships that we care about with love. Most importantly, like her, we must work to be the best people that we can possibly be.



January

Marya Juarez

February

Ruben Lopez
Mariana Trujillo

March

Aldair Acosta

Ricardo Perez – ***A Taste of Spain***

This year, Ricardo Perez was able to accomplish his goal of studying abroad. finding a program that fit his educational goals and fulfilled his wanting to go to a Spanish speaking country, it was decided that he would be heading to Spain. While in Murcia, Ricardo quickly adapted to the new culture and found himself living a true Spanish lifestyle. A lifestyle that quickly changed amongst each European country Ricardo visited. “I remember traveling from Italy to Spain and being in awe as to how different the architecture was as well as the people.” When asked what he would do differently, Ricardo simply said he would have stayed longer. He recommends that others follow in his footsteps and begin a journey of their own. “If given the opportunity I would say to emerge yourself with the culture and live every day to the fullest because aside from being the best time of your life, it is also when time runs the quickest!”



Diana Camacho – ***Dreams in Spain***

Since high school, Diana Camacho has always wanted to study abroad. With a goal in mind, Diana went into her first years in college looking for an opportunity to fulfill her longing to go abroad. Then her junior year, she was off to Spain. It was The first time she was somewhere new completely on her own. “With the help of google maps and my desire to grow, I eventually found myself wanting to just travel on my own and make my own discoveries.” Her experience was memorable, and she would be eager to study abroad again with a different destination in South America. As for others, she recommends that we just go for it if it is one of our goals. “It’s hard to escape debt, so why not be in debt for a trip of a lifetime filled with traveling, learning, and amazing food.



Upcoming Events

- April 3: Spring Welcome Back Carnes Asada
- April 13-15: Northwest CAMP Consortium
- June 9: HEP/CAMP Recognition Ceremony
- June 15: “Si Se Pudo” Latinx Graduation

CAMP Alumni... Where Are They Now?

Oralia Mendez—

CAMP Scholar 2008

As a C.A.M.P. family member, Oralia Mendez is representing Latinx students in graduate programs. She is currently pursuing a master's in public health. Though she faced some financial and personal fears, Oralia worked up the courage to continue her education and inspire others to do the same. "¡Si se puede!" is what she has to say to others hesitating to pursue their dreams of higher education. Although she took off a couple of years from school to join the work force, she faced her fears of not being as well informed as her peers,



who were straight out of their undergraduate studies, and found a network of young professionals chasing a similar career. With a supportive cohort and staff, Oralia hopes to graduate and continue on to create change within the health management and public health field. Her ultimate goal is to develop successful programs, policies, and procedures that will better serve the communities in need and help bridge health disparities that currently exist in the healthcare system. Through her representation in Oregon State's graduate programs, she inspires the undergraduate students of the CAMP family to pursue more. Her advice to us is to "stop making excuses, and go after that bachelor's, master's, Ph.D., etc.". She ends by saying that we need to keep aiming high so that we can achieve more Latinx representation in a wide range of professional fields. With the supportive nature of our CAMP family, many of us are well on our way to follow in Oralia's footsteps.

Chicago (USLI)



Students at the windy city for the United States Hispanic Leadership Conference

A word from the Director – Amas' Updates



Winter term is over! For me, this term went by really fast. I'm trying to remember some of the activities we did as a group or the activities where most of our students participated in. At the beginning of the term we did have the usual quarterly Welcome Back BBQ at the Avery Lodge and we enjoyed red, green, and vegetarian posole. Posole is a traditional soup or stew from Mexico. One of my favorite Mexican dishes. My thanks go to Mrs. Gonzalez for cooking the delicious posole, as a group, we all enjoyed.

Most of the CAMP students and staff, including mentors attended the Portland Blazers game at the Moda Center. The Blazer's won the game for the delight of our group.

Mid-February, CAMP sponsored ten students to attend the United States Hispanic Leadership Institute (USHLI) in Chicago. In addition, Jesse Nelson from the Office of Academic Achievement and Dan Larson, Interim VP for Student Affairs provided additional funds for 10 more students. So, a total of 20 students attended the conference. The students attended all the amazing keynote speakers as well as the workshops. For most of them, this was their first time flying back east. A thank you goes to District Attorney John Haroldson for his efforts to ensure Oregon students participated in this conference.

These last weeks, the majority of the time I was out of the office for travel. I was able to attend a TRIO conference in Honolulu, HI and the Council of Education (COE) in Washington where most of my time was spent between the House and Senate buildings educating several Oregon representatives, including our Senator Merkley, about the uniqueness of the TRIO and HEP/CAMP programs and the results these programs have been achieving these last years, including the issues our first generation, low income students, and migrant farm worker families and students face in their daily lives. Now, I'm just glad to be home for the rest of term and spend more time with students and family.

Lastly, at the end of February, we selected the incoming cohort group, which happens to be the last cohort of our five-year grant cycle. Thirty scholars were selected for next year 2018-19. Our Selection Committee was excited to read the applications and unanimously agreed for us to send the letter of acceptance to those select students who have the greatest need of the program. I am looking forward to meeting them at the university's START Bilingue program in July.

Amas

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