As students from migrant families, our lives are full of sacrifice. A sacrifice that feeds the success and betterment of our loved ones. Cristian Reyes embodies a triumph for our community and the dedication it takes to help others succeed along with oneself. He is selfless and driven to make an impact in others’ lives.

A son of immigrant parents and brother to four sisters, Cristian has overcome many barriers to make them proud. Joining C.A.M.P. in 2012, he is now a graduate of Oregon State University with a Bachelor’s of Science in Public Health. He decided he was not finished yet and continues to defy statistics by pursuing his Master’s in Public Health, the only Latino man in the entire program. His representation of underrepresented populations is inspirational. In fact, just recently, Cristian had the privilege of presenting to a class of graduate students on a topic that hits home; migration and issues that affect our community. Issues that he continuously battles even through his busy schedule.

Through all of his school responsibilities, Cristian still finds time to be a leader to the upcoming classes of migrant students. He has been a mentor for the Oregon Migrant Leadership Institute, the College Assistance Migrant Program, and the C.A.M.P. Scholar Internship program. This year, he is getting ready to make his greatest impact yet by taking on the role of OMLI coordinator. He will be responsible for the curriculum of the program as well as facilitation of the staff. With years of experience as a mentor and a charismatic personality, there is no doubt that he will do well in providing an inclusive, educational, and fun environment for everyone involved.

With only a couple years left in his educational career, Cristian has big plans for the future. He plans to specialize in Environmental Health and tackle the disparities often found in minority communities. Once graduated, he plans to return to his hometown of Woodburn, Oregon to return to his family. He plans to make up for missed moments with them and spend as much time with them as possible. Wherever he goes, or whatever he does, Cristian is sure to support anyone in need. 

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CAMP Scholars Go Abroad

Cristian Reyes – continued from page 1...
Wherever he goes, or whatever he does, Cristian is sure to support anyone in need. His advice is to “Forge ahead, while living in the moment. Don’t Sacrifice your own happiness.” With all of our support, the C.A.M.P. family cannot wait to see what his future holds and what accomplishments will come with his perseverance and hard work.

Cecilia Morales Barajas - Island Love

After a devastating hurricane hit Puerto Rico, the island needed all the help they could get. What began as a career exploration trip, turned out to be an experience of a lifetime for Cecilia Morales Barajas.

Normally, the trip to Puerto Rico is scheduled during the Winter and allows students to work with middle schoolers on their agriculture curriculum. This year, plans underwent some changes as the natural disaster had a great impact on the island. The trip was rescheduled for Spring break and turned into an opportunity to help local Puerto Ricans gain back a piece of their home.

With dreams to become a teacher, Cecilia indulged in the opportunity she had to make a difference in the community of San Sebastian. Assigned to a group specifically in charge of the school’s curriculum, Cecilia contributed ideas to the lesson plans that would be taught to the seventh and eighth graders and ultimately taught her own class. Leaving a piece of her on the island, she also helped design and paint a mural outside of the agriculture classroom.

Aside from the professional opportunities, Cecilia helped those in need and was pleasantly surprised to witness their resiliency. She noted that the locals were nothing short of welcoming and had happy attitudes despite what they had endured. They made her experience unique and left her with a desire to go back, perhaps for longer next time. For those looking to study abroad, Cecilia’s advice is to invest time on learning your destination’s culture in advance and to indulge in the culture while there.

Upcoming Events

- July 1-2: START Bilingue
- June 24 – July 27: Migrant Leadership Institute
- September 9-14: CAMP Summer Bridge
- September 20: First day of classes
Adan Avila – CAMP Scholar 2014

In a matter of a few weeks, Adan will be transitioning into the next stage of his life and beginning his first job. A true success story for a recent graduate.

As an undergraduate student, Adan volunteered in a variety of events through his position as a TRIO-SSS mentor. Through this mentorship, he reached many students, while also gaining the experience needed for his future internships. Interning for Pure Seed Testing, he gained experience on the research aspect of agriculture by focusing on the impact of grass seed business in the Willamette Valley. His next internship would lead to his greatest opportunity, a job offer right out of college.

Interning for the Northwest Farm Credit Services (NWFCS), he learned about agricultural finance and left an impression on the staff. He received an interview which led to a job offer. Only a week after graduating, Adan will begin a training program that will prepare him to work in one of the NWFCS offices located throughout the state. More than anything, he looks forward to making an impact on his community’s local agriculture.

Northwest CAMP Consortium and Recognition Ceremony

Left: CAMP students travel to Pullman, WA to attend the Northwest CAMP Consotim where they get to network and meet fellow CAMP Scholars from Washington and Idaho.

Right: Over 200 students and family members attended our Annual CAMP Recognition Ceremony.

Awards included: Academic Achievement, Outstanding Leader, and the “Si Se Puede”
We are in the last weeks of this academic year. This year as practically flown by. I am excited that most of our students will successfully complete their first year in college. I believe most, if not all will be returning for their second year. We are also getting ready for the new group of 35 incoming students for 2018-2019. My staff and I are excited to meet them and their families during START Bilingue on July 1st and 2nd.

This is the last cohort of the five-year grant cycle. Since the inception of the grant in 2004, CAMP enrolled 508 students from all over Oregon. More than 250 students have graduated with their degrees and many are on their way to get their degrees. The program has been very successful on accomplishing our grant goals. I’ll be rewriting the grant proposal, which will be due in February. I hope we get renewed for another five years.

As new participants arrive, some CAMP alumni will be leaving this year. This year, 39 students who participated in CAMP in previous years will be graduating with their degrees in June. This is the largest group ever to graduate from OSU! They’ll be transitioning to the ‘real world” and put into practice those skills they have acquired at OSU. Perhaps the odds were against them, but they have successfully accomplished their higher education goals. I am proud of their accomplishments!

We are also getting ready for the Oregon Migrant Student Leadership Institute that will take place in July. The Leadership Institute is the result of our close collaboration with our state Migrant Education Program and the Forest Grove School District. Our goal is to serve close to 300 migrant high school students. We have received most of the students’ applications for the four weeks session. A staff of 15 individuals will be working directly with the participants. All of the staff members are CAMP students who are currently enrolled at OSU and PCC. I am excited for these collaborations with other agencies that provide services to migrant students. I look forward to an eventful summer. ~ Amas

Si Se Pudo Graduation