Spring 2014

UNM CAMP NEWSLETTER - SPRING 2014

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Another semester has flown by! It almost feels like it was yesterday when the 2013-2014 CAMP students arrived to UNM freshly graduated from High School…yet here they are completing their first year in college! During Spring 2014, our focus at CAMP was to motivate students to get involved on campus, to encourage them to seek learning opportunities outside of the classroom, and to help them polish their professional skills.

For this, we hosted one scholarship workshop, mock interview sessions, reviewed resumes, and promoted volunteering service throughout the semester. As an Advisor for CAMP, there is nothing more rewarding than seeing students take advantage of these and other opportunities. I am very proud of everyone’s accomplishments, and I want to give special kudos to those who applied for scholarships, joined a student organization, engaged in community service, or started an extracurricular activity during the 2013-2014 academic year.

Thank you for all the wonderful moments shared this academic year, and know that I personally send you my best wishes for all your projects.

As all of you continue your journey at UNM, I hope you realize the importance of seeking personal and professional development outside of class. Remember that in college you will get what you put in—so find your passion, stay focused on your dreams, and make things happen! I truly can’t wait to see what’s ahead for all of you. Please keep us updated on your adventures and never forget that the staff at CAMP will be available to help you.

See you when I see you!

Written by CAMP Academic Advisor:
Diana Campos-Martinez

Spring 2014 CAMP Activities.
Service Learning Project

The CAMP students and the CAMPerinos student organization, which is made up of CAMP alumni, partnered up with La Plazita Institute in the spring of 2013 and initiated their very first garden. Today, CAMP Valley has half an acre of land and a greenhouse that will allow us to grow crops year round, all thanks to La Plazita Institute.

The process thrived due to the determination given by the CAMPers, CAMP staff, CAMPerinos and three employees from La Plazita; without them this project wouldn’t have been possible. Since the spring semester this project was and is aimed towards educating our CAMPers about the importance of giving back to their communities as well as reminding them about preserving the environment and our culture as people of the Southwest.

“La Plazita has given us a place to meditate and connect with mother earth, we are not only going to grow crops to feed low income families but we are going to spark some motivation in these students to pursue their education,” expressed sophomore, Alberto Arriaga, a former CAMP student.

Written by CAMP Project Assistant: Saray Argumedo
In September 2013 the CAMP cohort went on their annual CAMPing trip to Jemez Springs, NM. Laura Montoya, a fun-spirited Recreational Services Coordinator at Johnson Gym, who has been leading outdoor activities for over 20 years, led this CAMPing trip. The event was an exciting time for everyone to bond with plenty of music, scary stories, food, and an opportunity to create great memories.

An important part of the program is the relationship between the mentor and his or her students, so for an activity the students joined their mentors on a bonding adventure. Each mentor had something planned for his or her students, whether it was just sitting down sharing experiences or participating in an activity the students joined their mentors on a bonding adventure. Each mentor had something planned for his or her students, whether it was just sitting down sharing experiences or participating in an activity. The experience that strengthened the relationship between the mentors and their students. Later on, students were free to do their own thing. They stayed active hiking up the mountain, walking through the creek, catching snakes, fishing at Fenton Lake, or just hanging around chopping wood at the campsite.

Question for Gisel Breceda, current CAMP participant: How was your experience when you were with your mentor during CAMPing with CAMP?

A: It was awesome because we went out into the creek and caught crawdads and told stories about our lives to each other. It was a great bonding experience!

Throughout the weekend, students were assigned the task to build a gift for another student using only what nature provides. On the second day the gifts were exchanged. A CAMP student, Danielle Chee states that, “It was a cool experience because we had to gather all of the materials from nature so we were forced to use our imagination and be more creative.”

Once the sun set the students turned up the music and started dancing and telling scary stories. The students did group line dances like “The Wobble” and “The K-Wang Wit It.” In addition, Laura shared some of her famous techno music from Ibiza, Spain. Once the energy died down, the program recruiter, Claudia Cano, and the students began telling scary stories.

The CAMPing trip ended on a great note with a giant breakfast, full stomachs, and unforgettable memories.

Written by CAMP Tutor: John Ortega

Program Specialist

We begin our twelfth year of CAMP at the University of New Mexico this fall 2013 semester! The CAMP staff is excited to welcome the new cohort of students and staff. These summer months CAMP saw a lot of exciting changes. Most of last year’s Educational Mentor/Tutors (EMT) graduated or moved on to bigger and better opportunities. We were sad to see them go but proud to see them move on to a new phase in their lives.

Natalie Peña received her business degree in May of 2013. She began working with us as the administrative assistant in 2008, and transitioned into pursuing her degree full time and became one of our EMTs in 2010.

David Hernandez was a CAMP student in 2009, from the New Mexico city of Love, Loving NM. He graduated in May 2013 with his Biology degree and now is attending Medical school. David became an EMT in 2011.

Bianca Ramirez hails from Animas, one of the most southern New Mexico towns. She became an EMT in the fall of 2009. Bianca received her Biology and Spanish degree in spring 2013. She moved to Dallas to pursue her dream of being a dedicated Cowboy fan and plans on enrolling into Medical school.

Miguel Peña is a product of the green chile capital of the world, Hatch, NM, and he graduated with his Biology degree. He came on board as an EMT fall 2012 and his experience as an orientation leader allowed him to make a powerful impact in his year with CAMP.

Briana Morfin was a CAMP student in David’s cohort in 2009. The beauty queen from up north spent a year with CAMP in 2012 mentoring her students and instilling them with confidence. In the spring of 2013 she interned at KOB channel 4 and now has transitioned to another internship at KOAT channel 7. She anticipates graduating in Fall 2013 with her journalism degree.

Orlando Obeso was the longest tenured CAMP EMT, he was part of the CAMP 2006 Cohort and in his sophomore year became an EMT. Orlando started as an engineering major but graduated with a degree in Sign Language Interpreting and currently commutes to Santa Fe to work for the New Mexico School for the Deaf.

The CAMP staff is very excited to start this year with five new fresh face on its students staff. Charlie P. Chavez from Santa Rosa, NM, Stephanie Vasquez and Brenda Ramirez from Hatch NM, Stephanie Rocha from Chaparral, NM, John Ortega from Albuquerque. Our new EMTs are former CAMP students with the exception of John Ortega. We had one student staff come back, Durae Gutierrez from Estancia, NM, who will serve as our lead EMT. The new tutors have been recruited because of their character, determination and community involvement and we are excited to have them onboard.

Jeremiah Vasquez, academic advisor since 2008, took the position of advisor at the University Academic & Enrichment Center. I want to thank him for his years of dedication to this program; CAMP is a better program for his contributions.

With Jeremiah’s departure, it opened the door to our new Academic Advisor, Diana Martinez-Campos. A former CAMP student from California State University – Sacramento, or Sac State as it’s called. She comes with high energy and a plethora of new ideas. Previously she worked at Sac State in the Multicultural Center and volunteered at the Santa Fe Community College.

As these fresh faces become a part of the CAMP program, Bertha Rodriguez who is our admin assistant, Claudia Cano our recruiter, Saray Argumedo our project assistant and Durae Gutierrez our lead EMT will all assist them in becoming an intricate part of the CAMP familia.

Written by CAMP Program Specialist: Ivan Olay
Introducing our CAMP Tutors:

Featured CAMP Alumnus.

Written By CAMP Lead Tutor: Durae Gutierrez
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