

Fall 2014

UNM CAMP NEWSLETTER - FALL 2014

UNM CAMP

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UNM **CAMP** NEWSLETTER



PROGRAM SPECIALIST CORNER



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The CAMP program at the University of New Mexico has been in existence since 2001. It has been through several changes and it is completing its third cycle. In 2015 it will be once again time to submit a proposal to the office of migrant education. I have been fortunate to have worked for CAMP since April 1, 2004. In the ten years that I have worked for CAMP as the advisor and now as the Program Specialist I have had the honor to witness numerous students completing their bachelor degrees and reaching their dreams. UNM CAMP has served 390 scholars and currently serving an additional 32 scholars. We have had 116 Graduates, 14 have attained their Master's Degrees and 5 have received their PhD or Professional Degree. What a great accomplishment for these students!

“ I never thought or envisioned that I would be blessed with encountering so many beautiful students in CAMP

CAMP alumni have taken up careers throughout New Mexico and serve as role models to our potential CAMP students spread-out through rural New Mexico. CAMP alumni have gone on to become: Architects, Physical Therapist, Spanish Instructors, Social justice advocates, Nurses, School Teachers, Lawyers, Engineers, Interpreters, Business Leaders, Medical Professionals, and University Advisors.

This is a small sample of what our CAMP scholars have accomplished. It has been inspiring to see many of these students

accomplish what themselves or those around them thought as impossible. It has been a great feeling walking on the UNM CAMPus and seeing so many of our CAMP program alumni taking positions within the university such as working with our sister program the High School equivalency Program (HEP), the UNM libraries, other academic support programs like Student Support Services and El Centro De La Raza. It's awesome to hear of more CAMP scholars participating in national and international exchange programs traveling to Spain, London, Mexico, among other places.

As a naïve first time advisor ten years ago, I never thought or envisioned that I would be blessed with encountering so many beautiful students in CAMP. When I get discourage, lazy or hopeless I think of all the CAMP scholars and how much they have accomplished and my problems seem not as unsurmountable. My one request to all our past CAMP scholars, alumni and graduates is that you help those that come behind you and you pay it forward. Like the great Cesar Chavez said, "You are never strong enough that you don't need help."

- Ivan Olay

pg 2 Camping Trip



pg 5 Recruiter's Horizon



pg 6 Alumni Mixer





CAMPING

The 2014-2015 CAMP cohort, staff, and a small group of CAMPerinos all set out to Villanueva State Park on September 5, 2014 for this year's annual CAMPing trip. The annual CAMPing trip is one of the first, big activities CAMP throws that allows the students to learn about each other, bond, and create unforgettable memories.

CAMPerinos prepared a series of activities for the CAMPers. Many of these activities were ice breakers to get students comfortable with each other and to encourage teamwork, communication, and cooperation. Also, at this time students were given the annual "Gift Exchange Challenge." It is tradition for students to draw names and make a gift only using things from nature.

After activities, everybody had the opportunity to relax and choose what they wanted to do before dinner. Trinidad led some students on a hiking adventure. Other students chose to play a friendly, competitive game of volleyball. Then there were some students that just laid back and enjoyed nature and the company

of their peers.

"I am very thankful that I was able to go camping with this year's cohort. Just one, short year ago that I was in their shoes. Being CAMP alum, I wanted to stay involved with CAMP and get to know this year's students so I could hopefully help them and guide them in any way I can," said CAMP alum, Luis Hernandez.

After dinner, CAMPers could choose from a variety of activities to participate in throughout the night. There was an area for students to gather around a picnic table and tell scary stories. Ivan was in charge of the making the S'mores. There was music being played the whole time and some students that broke out the moves.

"I enjoyed the food as well the quality time that I was able to experience with some of the cohort during the late hours of the night. We were able to create really great memories. Really interesting conversations are started at 1 A.M. This was probably because we were fueled mostly by S'mores and water," said student, Cindy Botello.

- Alicia Dominguez

“ We were able to create really great memories. Really interesting conversations are started at 1 A.M.

SANCHEZ FARM

It has been a year in the making and the CAMPerinos have finally harvest squash at the Sanchez Farm!

CAMP and the CAMPerinos Organization united forces this summer with the Student Success Services (SSS) program and the High School Equivalence Program (HEP) here at the University of New Mexico. Together, we have been distributing time and effort to establish a solid foundation at the Sanchez Farm. During the summer, the programs worked together to prepare the land, weed, clean, and plant veggies. With due time, and having continuous meetings throughout the months of July and September we finally got some squash!

We all came into a consensus and as a team decided to donate our

first patch of veggies to a shelter that feeds those in need in the South Valley of Albuquerque, New Mexico called Trinity House.

This service learning project has thrived due to the determination given by the CAMP staff, CAMPerinos, SSS, HEP and the continuous support we have received from La Plazita Institute, without them this project wouldn't have been possible. This project continuous to be aimed towards educating our students 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.

- Saray Argumedo




MATH TABLE

This semester was the start of our Math Table. Twice a week, during convenient times for our students, Alicia and Dominic host a table specifically for tutoring students in any Math courses they might be in. These courses include College Algebra and Trigonometry. "Having the Math Table in the evening has made it much easier for me to come get help!" says 2014-2015 CAMP student Selina Siquieros.

Math at the college level can be extremely challenging. In high school the pace is sometimes slower and the curriculum less challenging, so can be hard for students to pick up the typical high paced college math course. "It's not a bad thing to need help. We all need it sometimes."

- *Dominic Medina*



MATH TABLE

study room
next to Administrator's office

// MONDAYS
// WEDNESDAYS
// THURSDAYS

10:00-11:00 AM

TUTOR INTRODUCTION



STEPHANIE VASQUEZ

I am a nursing major with a minor in Spanish. I enjoy traveling, meeting new people, dancing, and spending time with my family and friends. Working with CAMP is a very rewarding job. Although my primary job description is to be a tutor, I have learned and developed so many skills through helping others accomplish their own goals. I enjoy watching the level of maturity change in the students as they transition from high school to college and I like that I have the opportunity to be a part of their support system through their first year of college.



DOMINIC MEDINA

I'm from Espanola, New Mexico, I attended Pojoaque High School and graduated with the class of 2012. Currently, I'm a junior here at UNM with a biochemistry major with a math minor. If you don't catch me in Zimmerman Library studying, you are sure to see me at Johnson Gym as exercise is one of my favorite hobbies. I love working here at CAMP because of the environment here. We are like a family here and that is something pretty rare. We are all hard working students who are always ready to have a laugh and a good time.



DURAE GUTIERREZ

Hey hey it's Durae! I am a Senior here at UNM, majoring in Nursing and minoring in Psychology. Some of my hobbies include camping, hiking, snowboarding, and simply spending time with family and friends. I was a CAMP Student in 2011 and this is now my third year working as a CAMP Mentor/Tutor. My favorite thing about working with CAMP is to be able to see our students grow in their unique individual ways throughout their first year as college students, and of course having the best boss ever is a bonus! There is never a dull moment working with CAMP!



ALICIA DOMINGUEZ

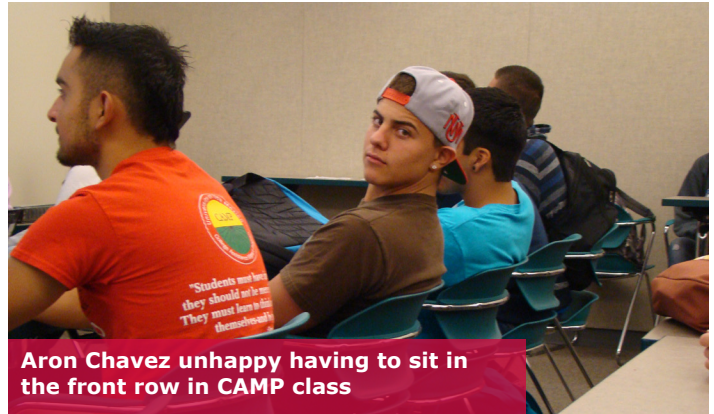
I'm a Mesa Vista High School graduate currently seeking a degree in Applied Mathematics. I'm currently a 19-year-old sophomore and CAMP Alum here at UNM. I'm interested in academics, volleyball, puzzles, hanging out with friends, American Cancer Society, and the Animal Humane Society. My goal as a tutor is to help students find or create a home while they attend UNM. My favorite part about working at CAMP is being able to work with the students and staff. I believe that CAMP is an amazing program and I'm glad to serve as a role in the lives of these individuals.



The CAMP tutors and staff dress up as Santa and his elves for the halloween potluck with SSS



CAMP students displaying their "Blue and Gold Power Strengths" at the Identifying Color Presentation



Aron Chavez unhappy having to sit in the front row in CAMP class

Q&A WITH CAMP ALUMNI

CRYSTAL SAENZ



What benefited you the most?

Enrolling into the Honors Program has benefited me the most because the classes are very interesting and similar to what I want to do as a career. This semester, I took an honors government class with unique perspectives and engaging discussion sections--which is different from regular classes. I feel I am more of a critical thinker and more open minded about various topics. It has further encouraged my decision to go to law school..

How is your job with HEP benefiting you?

The way in which HEP has benefited me is by keeping me busy, and therefore keeping myself on track with my school work. Since I know that I have to go to work in an hour, I try to get as much work done and plan ahead. I also enjoy meeting the students and working with them, many have had obstacles preventing them to obtain an education and having an opportunity to be a part of their success makes me very grateful.

Did you do any internships or receive any scholarships?

I have received the a total of 7 scholarships when entering the University. The amazing institutions that awarded me these scholarships are: IME Becas, Hispano Chamber of Commerce, Don Whatley Foundation, Sparx and Lorenzo

Antonio foundation, Bridge to Success, Enlace Mentoring, and CAMP Scholarship.

I also had an internship at the end of my senior year at the Department of Work Force Solutions within the legal department. I attended court sessions, and court meetings concerning unemployment benefits, and performed research on unemployment laws. This internship really helped me understand the type of work lawyers perform.

What was your experience like with CAMP? How did CAMP help you?

My CAMP experience has been one of the most important support systems, helping me integrate within the university. I don't know if I would have accomplished so much without CAMP or where I would be without CAMP, and I am grateful to have been granted the opportunity to be part of this amazing program. I would encourage anyone to apply to this program-- it will make you feel part of something more than just a student at a random college-- it is like a second family.

- Durae Gutierrez



RECRUITER'S HORIZON

The quest for new students has begun with the start of the new school year, this fall UNM CAMP has a new recruiter traveling the state in the search of new minds to educate. As the recruiter for the fall semester I have been tasked with the challenge of finding 35 students from around the state. Thankfully I am somewhat of a veteran when it comes to UNM CAMP, I was a former CAMP student, then later I joined the team as a mentor/tutor and recently I came on board as the Camp recruiter.

I have had a blast visiting all the high schools around the state, but I has been quite challenging. It's like finding a needle in a haystack, finding students whose family is involved in agricultural activities, that want to attend UNM for their degree is very difficult.

While traveling I have had many adventure throughout the state I have been able to see some of the most beautiful sites. I have had the privilege of seeing some of the most beautiful fall forest scenes, traveled along side the New Mexico - Texas border and have even been road blocked by a huge heard of sheep.

With fall semester coming to an end I have been out visiting agricultural communities in Southern New Mexico like Hatch, Deming and Dexter, just to name a few. The search for students continues, so keep an eye out for the CAMP van, you might just see me driving by.

- *Trinidad Mendoza*

Advisor's Corner



A piece of advice from the CAMP Advisor:

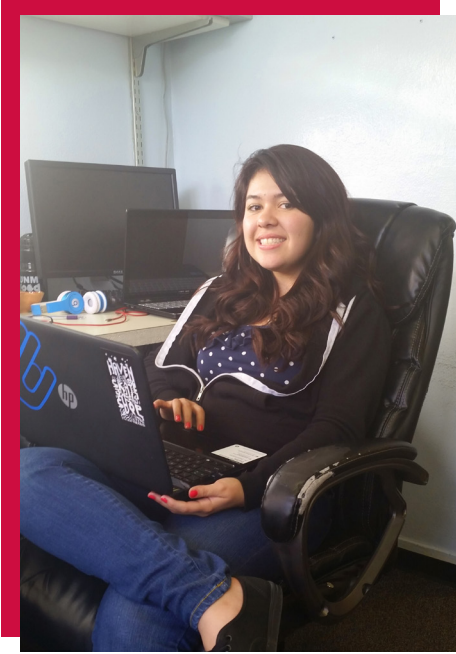
There is something we all need- or will need in our lives at some point or another, and that is HELP. For some reason, there is a general belief that asking for help is a sign of weakness or of lack of intelligence to solve problems, but it's actually **the complete opposite!** If you analyze it, asking for help shows maturity as

you acknowledge that nobody is a "know-it-all" or "do-it-all"- yes, nobody. Moreover, asking for help reflects confidence because it shows determination to get what you want, and overall asking for help can only make your life easier! Hence, as an advisor I tell you this: at least while you are in college, please, **PLEASE, push yourself to ask.** When something is not clear to you: ask. When you are uncertain about a process or instructions: ask. If you made a mistake, ask if you can make it up. If there is something you need (a ride, food, shelter, a hug...) tell someone. Even if that person can't actually help you, most likely he or she will find another someone who can. At UNM, there are wonderful peers and staff members who are eager to help you in your academic and professional journey but you must speak up (because mind reading has not been invented yet). Next time you are in a situation where you know you can use hand, don't let fear or embarrassment dominate you and just ask!

- *Diana Martinez-Campos*

CAMP Alumni Spotlight

ALICIA DOMINGUEZ



My first few semesters at UNM I've had the opportunity to get involved with a few organizations and events around campus; CAMPerinos, Colleges Against Cancer, Relay for Life, UNM Gates Scholars, Spring Storm, etc. Academically, I served as Psychology 105 Peer Teaching Assistant last semester and have started my first semester of Honors College this semester.

My personal CAMP experience was great. At first, I was a little guarded and kept to myself, but that all quickly faded away as I started to get to know the staff and the students in my cohort. CAMP was the support system I needed in my transition from a small, rural town in Northern New Mexico to the big city of Albuquerque. They were not only there for me academically, but financially and mentally as well. I could come to CAMP with all of my concerns, my accomplishments, and my nonsense. CAMP helped me grow as an individual here at UNM while giving me roots or a place where I can come back to for anything.

“ I could come to CAMP with all of my concerns, my accomplishments, and my nonsense



ALUMNI MIXER



The Alumni Mixer took place at the UNM CAMP football tailgate. This was the first year CAMP organized a tailgate and the CAMP students seemed to really enjoy themselves. I had the opportunity to have a conversation with current CAMP students, Victoria Cereceres and Natalia Benavidez, both stated that they really

enjoyed it and the activities we did. They said their favorite activity was the balloon toss and it was nice to be able to meet and interact with CAMP alumni. CAMP alumni students, Yambol Melero and Stephanie Rocha both enjoyed the tailgate but due to time conflict they were unable to attend until the end. During the short time they were there, they were able to meet a few of the scholars from this year's CAMP cohort and it seemed that everyone was having fun. Overall, this event was a success. It was nice to see many CAMP alumni and this year's CAMP scholars come together for the Alumni Mixer tailgating event.



CAMP Students and Alumni participating in the balloon toss

- Stephanie Vasquez



NOTE FROM CLAUDIA

It has been a true honor to be a part of an amazing program like CAMP, which alleviates so many of the stressors accompanied with attending college, and when I see the results of the support it provides our students it fills me with an immense feeling of accomplishment. Not only are our students participating in the program but they are also building lifelong friendships that will forever remind them of the program that once helped them during their academic journey at UNM.

Although I will no longer be working for the program, like our participants, I feel that I have become a part of a lifelong family that is CAMP. These past two years have taught me so much about the struggle that many of our students face, but yet overcome them through perseverance and sheer will to succeed. That alone instilled a passion in me to work harder

than ever to recruit. The amazing CAMP staff and inspiring students will forever fuel my passion to help as many people as possible.

I am very grateful to Ivan Olay, program specialist, for providing me with the opportunity to recruit for the program. I want to thank Diana, academic advisor, for going above and beyond for all of us. Finally, I want to thank the student staff and CAMP students for working so hard towards their goals and inspiring me to do the same. This is not a farewell, but a see you later. I will miss all of you, but remain available to you! May the program continue to change lives.

- Claudia Cano



Newsletter Designed and Compiled by George Boujaoude



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Our really awesome
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