

EMILY RIVAS.....



Emily Rivas, a 19-year-old sophomore, is part of the College Assistance Migrant Program (CAMP) and refers to it as “like a second family” for her. Although Emily traveled back and forth to Washington state as a migrant worker, she never abandoned her studies.

She worked during the summers and would then return to Donna High School for the fall and spring semesters. “My job was to pack broccoli that men picked in boxes.” This wasn’t until her senior year of high school that she stopped going to Washington. Now, Emily is completely focused on college and studying hard in order to complete her degree in Mexican American Studies.

ANGELA GOMEZ .....



Angela is currently a student at UTRGV and for as long as she can remember, her family has migrated within the United States and Mexico. Because Angela has attended school in both countries, it made it difficult for her to stay on track to graduate high school on time.

This slowed down her progress in her education since some credits did not transfer, which meant she needed retake certain courses in high school. Although such struggles were faced, they did not stop her from seeing education very important factor in her. Angela feels the struggles she faced in work motivated her towards her schoolwork. She feels that pursuing a higher education is what she is meant to do in order to have a better life.

MICHELLE ALVARADO.....



UTRGV faculty and mentor, Michelle Alvarado, guides first year college students to ensure they stay on a focused path to their desired goals. She has been working in higher education for twenty-two years.

During her time working with CAMP she has had many successes and one of them being that she was able to provide the students with the opportunity to be part of the National Association of Chicana and Chicano Studies (NACCS) where students attend conferences and other events such as the NACCS Tejas Foco.

While in CAMP, Emily received a scholarship to study abroad in Barcelona, Spain for a month. She was undecided about studying abroad but Mr. Miranda, the director of the program, convinced her to go. There, she had the opportunity to strengthen her Spanish by taking Spanish for Native/Heritage Speakers II course.

Emily described studying abroad as a growing experience, “you learn how to budget your money, navigate, adjust to the culture and discipline.” She recommends that students, if they have the accessibility to study abroad, to travel to Spain. “Barcelona is very nice, and the language is similar, so you won’t get too lost.” Now, Emily is planning on going to London for a minimester during Summer 2019.

“I have always been very focused in school because I see the struggles my parents go through...it’s difficult because you’re outside in the sun, which has led me to remain focused in school.”

She found CAMP through a family member who mentioned how it has impacted her along with her family in a beneficiary manner. For Angela, CAMP has given her “[a] personal space with people who are like me and have been or currently are going through similar experiences, so in a way we have our own equal society.”

Through the assistance offered by CAMP, Angela hopes to receive her degree and graduate within the next two years. She plans to further her studies by attending dental school to become a dentist. Angela is one of the few selected migrant students whose life has been impacted by CAMP. Where students are given a better chance to fulfill their dreams of a higher education without fear.

At the conference they co-present a book that the students collectively select. They talk about the book and how they relate to it by sharing their experiences. CAMP students have also participated in the State Migrant Education Conference where they presented how to acquire scholarships while in college. Alvarado helped guide them in their design and helped shape their presentation by making sure they were on the right path to giving the best presentation possible with good visuals and information.

Alvarado genuinely cares for her students, she does her best to help them with any barriers they may have and guides them to reaching their full potential and desired goals. She hopes for more professors to see what she sees in these students and that they will also join in becoming mentors for CAMP.

CAMP HELPS



CAMP helps students pay for school by offering monetary stipends each month for completing a life skills class each week, monthly student group meetings and weekly mentoring hours. The program also provides housing assistance for some students and these students have to meet with their dorm mentor once per month. Many CAMP services are provided on an individual basis for each student. The students are a top priority for the staff because this program is dedicated to them. Students can be found spending most of their time at Emilia Hall working diligently on their academics or simply spending free time at the center. Nearly three-quarters of all the CAMP students graduate with a bachelor’s degree or higher.

- The Editorial Staff



ENGAGEMENT EVENTS

**CAMP BOOK CLUB** Once a week, a group of fifteen CAMP students would meet to discuss a book, *Breaking Through* by Francisco Jimenez under the supervision of UTRGV professor, Mrs. Michelle Alvarado. The group selected this book because they identified with the main character’s struggles. According to students, being part of the book club allowed for them to have a moment to de-stress, eat snacks, and interact with other CAMP members that they would not have met otherwise.



**AMET CONFERENCE** Seven Book Club members presented at the annual AMET conference held in South Padre Island last November. At this conference, students presented to migrant counselors and parents about their experiences as migrant students and made connections from their lives to the book by Francisco Jimenez.

Along with allowing students to tell their stories, this was a great opportunity for them to build their resume and acquire communication skills necessary for their future careers.

**GARDEN CLUB** Under the guidance of Sandra Garza CAMP staff, a group of dorm students have been tending to a garden located at the university. At least twice a week, students visit the garden to water, weed, and tend to the plants. In past years, students have grown everything from tomatoes, lettuce, cucumber, and even watermelon. This years CAMP students have been able to keep the tradition going and hope to harvest and donate the vegetables to a local food pantry at the end of the school year.





## CAMP SERVICES:

- Camp Admissions
- Application Assistance
- Financial Aid Application Assistance
- Academic Advising
- Peer Mentoring
- Personal Counseling
- Life Skills Seminar
- Educational/Cultural Field Trips
- Monetary Assistance
- Parental Involvement

# CAMP

The College Assistance Migrant Program (CAMP) Edinburg at The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley is committed to helping you succeed by providing you with a quality program to help you achieve your dreams of a college education. As a student participating in this program during your freshman year, you will be provided support services to improve your academic skills, attend educational/cultural field trips and participate in academic advising, career planning and group counseling sessions. You will also have the opportunity to become acquainted with other CAMP students from Hidalgo, Cameron, Starr, and Willacy counties.

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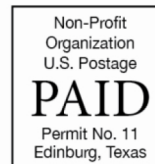
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*Newsletter Staff/Professor Marianita Escamilla's English 1301 Class*

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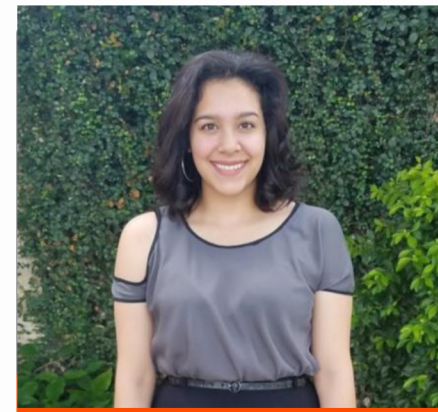
UTRioGrandeValley

# MIGRATING TO SUCCESS

COLLEGE ASSISTANCE MIGRANT PROGRAM EDINBURG

SPRING 2019

## “CAMP’S MAIN GOAL IS FOR US TO SUCCEED”



**ELIZABETH SALAZAR**

### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- CAMP is a grant-funded program seeking to help farmworker students.
- The College Assistance Migrant Program (CAMP) has existed since 1972.
- The College Assistance Migrant Program (CAMP) at the University of Texas-Pan American, a legacy institution of UTRGV, was one of the original four CAMP programs funded by the U.S. Department of Education in 1972.

The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley (UTRGV) provides guidance and support through the College Assistance Migrant Program (CAMP) which helps migrant farm worker students excel each year in school. CAMP's main objective is to help migrant students succeed by providing them with the proper tools and assistance. Here at UTRGV you can find over sixty students enrolled in the program.

We had the pleasure of interviewing Elizabeth Salazar, CAMP alumni, who gave us a deeper insight into the life of a migrant student and how CAMP has helped her achieve her goals. Salazar, 22 and mother of four, is now a senior at UTRGV, and is the first in the Salazar family to attend college. Despite giving birth to her first daughter at a young age, Salazar has been able to continue her education and overcome the odds.

Balancing school, family and work became one of Elizabeth's biggest challenges during her first year of college, "Time [management] was my biggest fear," Elizabeth stated. But with the help of CAMP's tutoring and counseling services, she was able to overcome this challenge. "They just made it easier, it was an easier transition from high school to college, I had more support here" Elizabeth recall

Elizabeth states that CAMP made a huge impact for her, both socially and academically. "I made friends in CAMP that helped me be more open, which is something I struggled with before" "CAMP [also] provided me with scantrons, lab materials, and books if they had them available for class" "CAMP's main goal was us succeeding" Elizabeth said.

When asked about what she would tell other parents considering coming to college, Elizabeth responded, "It's not impossible, take the chance you don't know what you're going to get out of it until you actually do it". "There's always going to be bumps, you just have to be stronger than what life throws at you ...you just have to keep on going, you have to if not you're just going to stay stuck".

It's a sacrifice and it's not going be forever, you have to take advantage of the time you get with your kids and just remember "it's only temporary and it will be worth it in the long run".



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College Assistance  
Migrant Program

