

## 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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UTRio Grande Valley

# MIGRATING TO SUCCESS

COLLEGE ASSISTANCE MIGRANT PROGRAM EDINBURG

SPRING 2018

## CAMP STUDENTS

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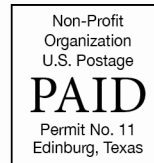
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UTRio Grande Valley

Newsletter Staff/Professor Marianita Escamilla's English 1301 Class

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JANNETH MENDOZA

### 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 which helps migrant farm worker students excel each year in school. The College Assistance Migrant Program (CAMP) is here to help migrant students succeed by providing them with the proper tools and assistance. Here at UTRGV you can find that there are seventy students enrolled in CAMP.

CAMP is there to make their lives easier by helping them with financial needs, providing them with tutors, and a place for them to study. A monthly training stipend is given to the students. Students are asked to attend monthly meetings with freshman seminar faculty and to complete at least four hours in study hall per week.

We had the pleasure of interviewing one of the current CAMP members, Janneth Mendoza, and we had the opportunity to learn about her experiences that come with being involved in the program.

**Janneth Mendoza**, a freshman Criminal Justice major, gave us answers to some questions we had about the program.

Janneth explained how the monthly training stipend has helped with the expenses her family has to accommodate for such as gas for travel and the occasional lunch.

The CAMP organization is a step in the right direction. By helping students get an education despite their school interruption struggles, each step that the university takes to bring education to people helps create future leaders that can make this community flourish. By allowing this program to exist, it ensures everyone is able to get the education they need to succeed the only thing standing in their way now is themselves.

Being able to understand the life of a migrant farm worker student is difficult but our new friend Janneth made us realize how fortunate students are to have a program that guides them on the right track in hope that they will continue with the rigorous school work and helping each person on the path to success.



The University of Texas  
Rio Grande Valley  
College Assistance  
Migrant Program



## RAMON ZAVALA



When you picture dedication and ambition, a common thought would be someone with persistence, perseverance, and will power. These people strive to make a change for themselves and those around them. Ramon Zavala is that person.

Ramon started to work from the age of 13, but he never let a difficult day in the field keep him from being himself. His great tenacity to tackle the harshest conditions leads to the realization that he is a shining example of what a student should be. His attitude remains positive and his outlook on life is inspiring.

As he was growing up, he always remained academically oriented. His surroundings are what kept him motivated to press on to attain his goals.

He furthers his education for his family, himself, and for those who didn't take the same opportunities he has. His words of advice are to keep pushing through along with not letting your education be wasted time.

When asked to describe himself in three words he used: lucky, fortunate, and magic. While the first two words strike a humbling feeling to those who hear it, the use of the word magic is a curious choice. As he explained why he's "magic," he stated, "Whenever I fix any little things, like my nephews toys or when my families' stuff isn't working I'd fix it, and my nephew's would often ask me 'how'd you do it?' and I would always say 'I'm magic.'"

Ramon wants to one day open a repair shop here in the Rio Grande Valley using his computer science degree to continue working on his magic.

## JOSE MATA



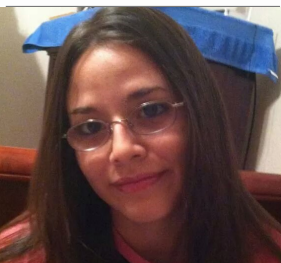
Jose Mata is a dedicated 19-year-old and a member of UTRGV CAMP at the Edinburg Campus. Jose describes himself as a migrant farm worker. In the past, he has had to worry about going to work in the fields at a time during school time; however, he has also put time aside for his studies in order to succeed in his college career.

Jose plans to major in Criminal Justice and after getting his degree to enlist with the United States Customs and Border Protection. Growing up as a migrant farm worker Jose has had to work hard all his life. The drive he possesses pushes him even further to be the best he can be at what he desires to become in the future.

With access to school essentials provided by CAMP, Jose has the opportunity save money for his future. Jose's family supports his decisions. They encourage him to pursue his education. He maintains a good work-study balance by going to the quiet study rooms provided at the CAMP center, which helps him stay focused, strive for greatness, and accomplish his goals.

CAMP has been a source of motivation for Jose's goals. Jose states that all of the resources given to him are a huge benefit for him to pass all his classes. He says, "I would probably be freaking out with all the money he would have to spend to get access to the school essential resources." Thanks to the CAMP, he will not have to worry about the money and instead just concentrate on all his classes and achieving the goals he has put on himself throughout his life.

## CRYSTAL CANALES



The College Assistance Migrant Program (CAMP) has helped thousands of migrant students get a head start in college. Though, none of this would be possible without the recruiters. In this case, the recruiter for CAMP is Crystal Canales.

Not only is she a motivated recruiter but she is also inspiring and humble which eases the students in meeting with her and asking questions.

As an Outreach Representative, Crystal also does her best to individualize the information, work closely with each of the students to help them with their concerns, and make sure they make good use of all the valuable resources on campus.

Crystal tries to get to the heart of what each student is worried about, for which she has three words; INDIVIDUALIZE, PERSONALIZE AND SCHOLARSHIPS. Aside from informing the prospective students, she also helps streamline the application process every year and ensures students apply for all scholarships in order to ease their stress and complications when they enroll at UTRGV.

# CAMP STAFF HELP



## WHAT CAMP OFFERS

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. 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 by 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



## ENGAGEMENTS EVENTS

### FARMWORKER AWARENESS WEEK

The Edinburg City Council proclaimed the week of March 24-31 as Farmworker Awareness Week in Edinburg. UTRGV CAMP Edinburg and the High School Equivalency Program had the honor of receiving the proclamation during the city council meeting at Edinburg City Hall. This proclamation will help bring more awareness to farm workers' lives and help improve their living and working conditions. Pictured with some CAMP and HEP students are the city mayor and four Edinburg councilmen.



COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

### NACCS 'TEJAS FOCO' CONFERENCE

Seven students from The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley's College Assistance Migrant Program (CAMP) presented to students and faculty from across the state at the National Association for Chicana and Chicano Studies "Tejas Foco" Conference in February. The presentation, titled "Stories of Inspiration and Resiliency: Students' Journey to Higher Education," was a discussion of local author Viola Canales' book of poems, "The Little Devil and the Rose." The discussion served as a 45-minute panel workshop. The conference was held at the Texas Lutheran University. -Published by J. Edward Moreno.



GARDENING CLUB

