MIGRANT STUDENT SERVICES
14th Annual Recognition Ceremony
Sunday, April 13, 2014
Kellogg Center
Our Mission:

The mission of Michigan State University College Assistance Migrant Program Scholars Initiative is to assist migrant and/or seasonal farm worker students in their transition to University life.

The College Assistance Migrant Program Scholars Initiative services at Michigan State University provides supportive and retention services to college students from migrant and seasonal farm worker families.

“In life...
No one owes you anything, no one is going to give you anything, everything in life—you have to earn it.”

-Luis Alonzo Garcia
Migrant Student Services Director
Program Agenda:

Welcome
Rudy Ramos - CAMP Associate Director

Breakfast Buffet

Words from the Director
Luis Alonzo Garcia

Words from the Associate Provost & Dean of Undergraduate Education
Dr. Douglas Estry

Tribute
Daniel Soza

Recognition of CAMP Doctoral Student
Felipe Lopez

Introduction of CAMP Freshmen Scholars Cohort 2013-2014
Aleida Martinez-Flores

Reflections of First Year at MSU
Freshmen and Graduating Senior

Introduction of 2014 MSU CAMP Scholars
Earning Undergraduate and Graduate Degrees
Elias Lopez

Conclusion
Rudy Ramos
2013-2014 CAMP Scholars

Andrade, Laura Isela
Anguiano, Isaac Benjamin
Aragon, Sara Reyes
Augustin, Dukernse
Bautista, Janet
Bonilla, Alejandra Abigail
Calderon, Kevin
Campuzano, Alejandro
Carrillo, Salvador
Chavez, Steve
Cortes, Daniel
Dedmon, Cierah Meagan
Flores, Benito
Galaviz, Noe
Gamino, Dimitri
Garcia, Melissa
Gonzalez, David Leonardo
Gonzalez, Joane
Guerrero, Elieser Azael
Gutierrez, Ismael
Hernandez, Jose Guadalupe
Hernandez, Verenice
Huerta, Santana
Jaramillo, Angela
Jasso, Ainsley Doralynne
Joseph, Ralph
Juarez, Karina
Leal, Karla P

Leon, Elizabeth Nelly
Leos, Jasmine
Lezama-Perez, Alma
Martinez, Cynthia Marie
Martinez, Jacqueline
Martinez, Selena Michelle
Morales, Francisco Javier
Murillo, Febe Amanda
Najera, Kassandra
Quijano, Uriel
Quinones, Olga Lydia
Quintana-Diaz, Silvia
Ramirez, Andres
Ramirez, Irma
Ramirez, Victor
Rivera, Valentin
Robles, Kimberly Monique
Rodriguez, Jorge Luis
Rosas, Corina Itzel
Ruiz, Alexandra
Ruiz, Alfredo
Sanchez, Eduardo
Solis, Cassandra
Sosa, Eduardo
Thermidor, Anthonas
Torres-Salinas, Edgar
Valdez, Natalie Maxine
Villela, Roberto
2013-2014
Academic Excellence

3.0 or Higher

Janet Bautista
Alejandra Abigail Bonilla
Kevin Calderon
Cierah Meagan Dedmon
Jose Guadalupe Hernandez
Ainsley Doralynne Jasso
Selena Michelle Martinez
Kassandra Najera
Uriel Quijano
Irma Ramirez
Anthonas Thermidor
Natalie Maxine Valdez
It has been a wild roller coaster ride really epic for me. There’s so many people to thank, that its actually difficult to narrow it down to the specific people that have helped me along the way. I was in my biology class, my teacher Paakal Mendoza a teacher whom currently still works in John Tyler High school. As I recall he was that teacher that always talked and talked about his college experience, he would mention all about MSU an its dorms how enormous it was, and all the fun activates such as IM sports. It was enough to convince me to go to the university. I thank him now for all his constant descriptions of MSU. As soon as I started I started I applied for a study abroad in the summer right before I started class for the fall. I thank Sandy Tupper and Dr. Inge Steglitz for assisting me in getting financial aid and scholarships. Soon after that, I was notified by Heather Swain that I was nominated to be part of the falls 2013’s Presidents Report. Jim Peck, the director of the big ten network was helping me along the way in the 2013 Presidents Report I am truly happy that he helped me out shout out to the big boss. Before I went to Japan I encountered some financial problems I was low on funds and was unable to pay the remaining balance for the trip.

I asked the TRiO SSS coordinator Danielle Lopez who is one of the best ladies in the office of supportive service, I asked her where can I find the any extra funds for the freshmen seminar abroad. She directed me to The College Assistance Migrant Program. That is where I met Luis Garcia the director of MSS and Elias Lopez the C.A.M.P recruiting officer, I got to know what they where about and I met all the qualifications for the program. I signed up right away with the program and they did assist me with the remaining balance that was due. Thanks to gentlemen like them I had the opportunity to go abroad to Japan and have financial assistance throughout the whole year. However, that wasn’t it I ran into other problems with money, and when did I would always ask Susan Chaligan the Administrative Assistant for C.A.M.P. every single time I was relieved from my worries. She always put a smile on my face when I was frantic about the financial situation.

It was time to get books, the two that went out of there way to help out, not just me but the whole 60 undergraduates. Rudy or better yet his real name Raul Ramos the C.A.M.P. Associate Director and Aleida Martinez the MSS Coordinator, they where the ones who went all the way to the book store to help us figure out what books to get and most of the time sent us annoying email constantly. Although the emails and constant attention to help us was a bit annoying I’m glad they did because it really shows that they care about us. Thank you Mr. Ramos and Mrs. Martinez you to are some of the best staff members camp has to offer. They made all of our life’s that much easier. Thanks to each and every single person that has helped me along the way is the reason why I’m here pushing through the blizzard like a train. I thank Jesus Christ for putting each and every individual in my path to succeed. I hope God will Bless each and every one.
Time flies by making me realize that my first year in college, is days away from being over. By farthest, it has been the most memorable year I will ever have. I have been in and out of trouble, rushes, joy, depression and excitement. Throughout the year I have become a strong person, willing to do the best for myself. I’ve learned that no matter which choices you make whether they are right or wrong, CAMP will be there to support you. It has been a rollercoaster and I most definitely do not regret anything I have done because if it weren’t for my mistakes, I wouldn’t be in the place I am today. Coming to MSU made me become a bigger person and gave me such a wonderful bond with a lot of people. I wouldn’t trade for the world.

Sara Reyes Aragon

To start things off I just want to thank God for letting me have the chance to be part of not only the CAMP program, but also the Spartan family. Being here has really made me realize a lot of things, I couldn’t ask for a better experience. One life experience that really impacted my life was the Study Abroad trip, being able to take care of students that were sexually abused, and also working with kids that were in orphanages, has really made me look at life in a different aspect. I’m just happy to be part of this outstanding program. Once again I can’t express my gratitude thanks for everything.

Dukernse Augustin

My experience at Michigan experience in Michigan State University and being part of the College Assistance Migrant Program (CAMP) has opened so many doors and changed my perspective. I would like to thank all of the CAMP staff because they believed in us one no one did, they are always there for us and love hearing about our daily experiences in classes. CAMP gave me the opportunity to go abroad, attend workshops that have helped me academically and helped me transition from a high school environment to college. Thank you for all your support!!

Alejandra Abigail Bonilla

My first year at State has been a life-changing experience. If it weren’t for CAMP I wouldn’t have had the opportunity to experience all the things I did. The financial help they have provided me is something that has definitely helped. Had it not been for CAMP dragging me out to study abroad, I would have never experienced the wonderful things that I did in Mexico. I thank CAMP and I thank my family for supporting my desire to continue with higher education. I look forward to returning again and again to Michigan State University.

Kevin Calderon
Alejandro Campuzano

I would admit that I was extremely nervous of my first year at Michigan State. Just the thought of making such a big transition from high school to college gave me goose bumps. The first week was great because CAMP gave us plenty of information about the campus and the resources it has to offer. After that I felt confident and surprisingly I didn’t get lost. Also, meeting new people from different places and becoming good friends with them was awesome. I never thought I would meet people that had the same interest as me. The classes are a lot different from high school and I feel like it’s just a process you have to get comfortable to. College is about learning to manage your time and sticking to a specific schedule so you can accomplish everything you need to do on time. Overall, I believe my first year at Michigan State was great.

Steve Chavez

I thought I could have fun in college my first year and that was my mistake talking my education for granted, the opportunity other don’t get, blamed other for why I was failing, saying I will do better bit not showing any effort. I agree I really messed up bad. After the study abroad trip to Mexico issues about myself were confronted and made friends I can call my brothers. I am glad CAMP accepted me, and I owe them a lot for accepting me into their program.

Daniel Cortez

As a student that had recently graduated from high school, I found it really challenging to transition into the University life style. For beginners had never really had the amount of freedom that coming to a Big-Ten school had to offer. The amount of students seemed outrages and not having someone to cook meals that I preferred where some of the very first problems, I faced. The College Assistance Migrant Program (CAMP) offered not only the opportunity to get to see the school a week before it began, but it also helped me connect with other students which like me shared a background of Migrant farming. It was really easy to communicate with other students afterwards. The program, also helped me meet my financial needs, by not only providing me with a Scholarship, that helps me pay tuition, but it also provided me with a monthly stipend. This helped me, become more independent and to not have to depend so much on my parents, as long as I manage my expenses with the amount given during the months. I was provided an IEP, which is my mentor. Her name is Ivette Galarza, and having this mentor is probably one of the best things about coming in through the program. She has provided me with some of her struggles as she came to college. I really got to reflect, and grow from the things that she told me about. During my first semester, it is very obvious that I really had no control of the things around me. I was letting things get ahead of me, just to have fun. This is normal for a first timer. My second semester, I came back extremely motivated; to better myself academically and professionally, in order to better represent myself. CAMP has offered me the opportunity to grow, by
inviting me to attend the USHLI Leadership Conference, and allowing me to travel with a group named the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers (SHPE). Another thing that CAMP helped me with is to realize the impact we as students have at an international level, through sponsoring a Study Abroad class, which really opens eyes and heart. If you think you have seen a lot and talk about a lot, you have no idea what this experience will have you do afterwards. The CAMP program has done a lot for me, and hopefully it will grow and keep reaching out to those whom decide to further their education past just their freshman year. It’s been a great experience that will definitely have me wanting to let other students know about.

Cierah Meagan Dedmon

My first year at Michigan State University has been full of many obstacles as well as tons of laughter thanks to the people who helped me through the transition from high school to a university in a different state. At first I did not know what to expect when I became a Spartan, but I knew for sure that I had my CAMP family and friends to turn to. My first semester went great with the help of my advisors’ encouragement and motivation. Without the support I had, I probably would not be here today following my dreams.

Benito Flores

My first year is full of fun memories and great friendships that I made during the year, both in and out of CAMP. I am glad I got the opportunity to come out of my norm and to see how life on my own is, and I am grateful CAMP gave me this opportunity. Thanks to CAMP I am now on track to continuing the rest of my life.

Noe Galaviz

Coming to MSU, I expected things to be a bit different. I had never expected it to be as challenging as it is now. Overall my first year here has been an amazing experience, although my first semester was a bit tough, I have learned from it and moved forward. Adjusting to the weather would have to be the hardest task yet but I hope to over come it. Besides work and school I like to stay busy around campus that is why I have decided to join dodge ball. We have traveled a lot to different parts of Michigan to play in tournaments and against other local schools. I hope to continue to having a great semester and move forward.
Melissa Garcia

I had no doubt that college was going to be difficult. I guess I just didn’t think it would be this hard. Freshmen that do well in high school always have this superior attitude that everything will be alright. They just do not know that you might have to do the best in high school but the people you are attending college with were also the best. That was something that really hit me. All this time I had was wasted. I had so many people who were so concerned about me, from CAMP to the ACCESS program, and they annoyed me the whole time. I now see that wanted me to be successful. That is what I am doing right now. My first semester could have been a lot better and I am feeling it now. Nevertheless, the only thing I can do now is keep moving forward and becoming better, both as a person and as a student.

David Leonardo Gonzalez

I have been blessed to have 3 siblings graduate from Michigan State University. This school and program have changed my life for the best. The CAMP staff makes it easy on us to transition into college and they are always really helpful. I’ve had a great experience as a CAMP scholar.

Joane Gonzalez

Thanks to the CAMP program, I had some of the best experience ever. Met so many amazing people. Thanks to the staff for putting up with us. I know I would’ve been lost in MSU if it wasn’t for them. I also want to take my family. They have been my motivation to continue when I feel like quitting, especially my old sister. She has been the one who has pushed me to go above and beyond my ways. Also, I want to thank my CAMP friends who have been with me through the stress of final exams all the way to the craziest moments we had in college. I wouldn’t be standing here today if it weren’t for them.

Elieser Azael Guerrero

When I came to MSU it was a dream come true, I would never have taught a person like me would get an opportunity to change my life, to change who I will be. I always looked to my future, but everyone always told me it was a fools dream. Now I can look at them and say “look where I be”. What MSU has given me from the first day I stepped in, till right now as I write this paper is open doors everywhere I go. Now I know by being here that I can be whoever, and do whatever I want with my life, and not be scared, or stopped to achieve my destiny.
Ismael Gutierrez

My first semester was really tough for me because I wasn’t taking advantage of CAMP or any of the other resources MSU has to offer. When I first arrived at MSU I wasn’t comfortable enough to ask for help. I ended up in a bad place academically. My second semester has been a different story though. The CAMP staff sat me down one on one and offered me help. The study abroad to Campeche was also a real eye opener for me. It changed my way of thinking about so many things that have been bothering me. I used to drown myself in a cup of water but now it takes much more then that to knock me down.

Jose Guadalupe Hernandez

My first year at Michigan State University was the biggest eye opener to the real world. I suffered everything from depression to feeling alone, I kept it to myself, but I didn’t let it stop me. I never realized how much I was babied in high school, but here at MSU I have to work for what I want to obtain. I have always worked hard in my life, but only enough to get by. Now that my eyes have been opened, I understand that not everyone has the opportunity I am given. I plan on doing everything the best I can because I never know when this opportunity can disappear.

Verenice Hernandez

My first year at MSU has been GREAT, and being a part of CAMP has made it that much better. I was fortunate enough to have a great support system behind me that helped me with whatever I needed. I have gotten to experience lots of new things through CAMP and met a lot of great people who have truly impacted my life, and for that I will always be grateful.

Santana Huerta

This first year at Michigan State University was an eye opener for me. I made friendships that I believe are true, but most importantly I came to realize who I was. There have been many stories that I could tell just from this year. Yet, this is just the beginning of my life. I have a long road ahead of me and the people I have met while attending this university have helped me carry on. At times I would lose focus but there was always someone pulling me back to reality. This year is one of many that I will have at Michigan State University. This year was just the beginning of my journey through life.
Angela Jaramillo

Coming to MSU for the first time it has been an insane trip. Having an opportunity to be a CAMP scholar was a challenge. Meeting people from different backgrounds has opened my eyes to the different cultures and learning to accept them. From facing obstacles such as academically, personally, mentally, emotionally, and physically helped me grow while overcoming them. Overall through this life changing experience I met many people but gained one life-long friend.

Ainsley Doralynne Jasso

My experience as a CAMP freshman this year was, I guess you can say, hectic. I got to the university thinking what did I sign up for. I remember being a senior in high school touring the campus. For some reason I thought it would be smaller, but when I arrived it was a whole city to itself. Besides that, it was hard to adjust to college life. I’m glad CAMP introduced us to all the resources on campus, because they helped a lot. For example, the writing center and also the Math Learning Center. I’m also glad that we got to experience a Study Abroad spring break trip. That was a life changing experience to me because it gave me insight into other peoples lives, and made me appreciate my family and education. I have the opportunity to study at a Big Ten university, which is pretty much amazing if you ask me. Most of the kids back in Mexico don’t have that opportunity. I thank CAMP for these opportunities that I have been given my freshman year in college.

Ralph Joseph

My experience at Michigan State University with CAMP has meant a great deal to my family, my community, and myself. I have met some wonderful people along this journey that have been a positive influence on me, that have also enhanced my future but still allow me to think for myself. Thank you to all the CAMP staff that have helped me find my true self, but still kept me in line, so that I could achieve my dream and be a great person to help the world.

Karina Juarez

The CAMP program has helped me in so many ways. When I need help in my classes I just go to the lab that is in the CAMP office this helps me study. One of the things that I really liked was going to Oaxaca Mexico; I learned so much in only one week. Seeing that yes I had it rough in life, but their kids that have a more difficult situation. CAMP gave me this opportunity to become a world citizen. With out this program I will not had made it this far. I like to give thanks to all the people behind my great opportunity here in MSU.
Karla P Leal

This semester in MSU was an amazing experience for me. It was much more than I had expected. I have never experienced this much freedom. It was a whole new world for me. I came in with the mentality that I was not going to meet any friends or have a social life. I was wrong. Everyone in Michigan State is so friendly. From the staff, willing to help you right away, to your friends who truly care about you. Everything is truly amazing. One of the experiences this semester that I will never forget is the trip to Puebla, Mexico. On this trip I learned so many life-lessons that cannot possibly be taught elsewhere. It was a magical experience that I wouldn’t trade for anything. I want to thank CAMP and everyone else who made this possible for me. My freshman year was filled with many exciting experiences from classes, to friends, and even the weather, I could not ask for a better experience.

Elizabeth Nelly Leon

I would really like to thank all the CAMP staff. Specifically to me CAMP was a big help, not only financially but academically as well. Coming from Florida and transferring from a small high school to a 47 thousand student University is a big change. CAMP prepared us for what was to come and provided us with resources around campus. It was hard learning and studying for some of my big classes because I was not used to learning with three hundred other students and not having face-to-face contact with the professors. CAMP also gave us study tips and followed up with us every month to make sure we were on track, not struggling with classes and one big thing not getting homesick. They tried their best to make it feel like home and they were always here for us if we needed someone to talk to. The one thing that I liked the most was the International engagement study abroad program to Mexico. I had the pleasure to go to Campeche, Mexico where I had an experience unlike any other. This trip really opened my eyes and made me appreciate what I have, and gave me more reason to reach for my goals. I think we were quite fortunate to have this big help.

Jasmine Leos

My first year here at Michigan State University has been a very moving experience for me. I did not anticipate this first year to be as incredible as it was. I met new people, saw new things that I never pictured myself seeing and even studied abroad in one of the most beautiful cities I’ve visited. I have encountered failures and accomplishments but I learned that in order to improve myself, I must have failures. Although, I did not reach my goal this year, it opened up more opportunities and encouragement to move forward and strive to go beyond expectations. I now know exactly what I need to do in the future in order to be where I want to be in the next 3 years of my academic life. With the support and guidance CAMP has given each and every one of us, I know we all achieve success. Above all, I think we all learned what it takes to be a true Spartan. I am very driven to exceed my expectations. I may be surprised but never defeated with the challenges that confront me in the future.
Alma Lezama-Perez

Wow! I cannot believe that my first year in college went by this fast. So many events occurred only in the first year. Attending Michigan State helped me challenge myself and take the next step. It is difficult to be the first generation to go to college, but with the hard work and dedication everything came together smoothly. Of course the courses where difficult, and I struggled, but I was able to pass all of them. I think if it was not for CAMP’s help and support, I would be lost. Freshman year is an experience that I will never forget; arriving here for me was a blessing. I have not only discovered my capability but also motivation to continue in college. The beginning has just started, and I cannot wait for years to come for when I get to walk on that stage!

Cynthia Marie Martinez

In life you never know what is to come but you prepare yourself for the challenges life throws at you. I would like to thank my family my friends and my boyfriend they all have motivated me to keep moving forward. Sometimes life gets chaotic and you need to step back and look at the wonderful things you’ve been blessed with for those people that have motivated I want to keep progressing.

Jacqueline Martinez

My first year here at Michigan State University was a huge rollercoaster. Coming in I didn’t know what to expect it was such a huge place and not knowing anyone here scared me even more. The firsts days I was by myself and then on our daily meetings with “CAMP” they enforced the motto of we are a family. Which made us all get to know each other more and try to become a family. Classes were good and different from high school but I managed. The one thing that was to much for me was having no one, and having so much liberty I came from having strict parents to MSU were they consider you old enough to do what you please. I thank CAMP for helping me out my first year and always being behind us pushing us to strive for so much better. Even though sometimes we complained about it, thanks to them my freshman year was a little easier.

Selena Michelle Martinez

I am not a fighter. My knees kiss the ground anytime; the concrete scathes them. My elbows try to hug and apologize to anything they accidentally bump into. My fingers never learned how to curl into fists, they only learned how to hold the hands of the one with hurting hearts. My heart refuses to take, she only knows how to give until her hands are left barren and bloody. I am not a fighter. My body wasn’t made to put up my fists when things got difficult.

My experience is that there is always hope.
The experience at Michigan State University allowed me to realize how hard it is to live away from home. I didn’t only learn in class but outside as well. I learned how to do laundry, wake up on time and how to manage my time more efficiently. MSU, along with its experiences, made me a responsible individual.

Francisco Javier Morales

Being a student here at Michigan State University has changed my life drastically. I have done things that most people would regret, but I have also made many wonderful friends and unforgettable memories. I have learned and experienced many great things, such as traveling to another country for the first time, going through culture shock, and being amazed at how much the C.A.M.P. Program has changed our culture for the better. I am blessed to have this opportunity of a lifetime of becoming not only a C.A.M.P. Scholar, but also a Spartan. Being here away from my loving family has made me realize how thankful and blessed I am to have them. I am proud of my race.

Febe Amanda Murillo

As a high school senior all I wanted was to become a freshman in college. Nothing that I anticipated actually prepared me for the reality of Michigan State University. The eye opening experience is something that will forever stay with me as I follow the rest of my educational career. For so long, my goal was aimed toward success and Michigan State University is the best path to get me there. Everything that I achieved could not have been possible without the help of the CAMP staff. I thank Rudy Ramos, Elias Lopez, Luis Garcia, Aleida Lopez, and my IEP Abby Warszawski. I also would not be there without the total support from my parents Luze and Jove Najera, and Ms. Guzman, my high school motivation. With these thoughts, I will once again sail my way to a brighter future.

Kassandra Najera

My first year experience at Michigan State University has been the best. It was nothing as I imagined it was going to be or how people said it would be. Being a college student takes a lot of responsibility and time management. As a student I had come with some of this features and attending college made me a better student.
Silvia Quintana-Diaz

As my freshmen year comes to an end, it has been an incredible experience that I’m glad to have taken advantage of the opportunity that the C.A.M.P Program has provided. Being a first generation college student, every obstacle that I encounter was incredibly challenging, especially attending a big school like Michigan State University (MSU). I knew the obstacles that lay before me and I was willing to confront them with the help and support C.A.M.P has provided me with. I remember sitting in class where a classmate and I were the only Latinos; I was completely bewildered. Back at my school the tables were turned around, but attending MSU was a reality check for me; it made me aware of the fact that there are not a lot of my people (Latinos) in school. Having this motivation in me and having C.A.M.P Program at my side, I believed that I would breeze through my first year but I had some down falls with procrastination and the freedom of being able to do what ever I wanted. C.A.M.P made sure I stayed on track whenever I was slacking off, provided me tutors, financial help, and so much more. Knowing this reassured me that they are truly here for us and to watch us grow, learn from our mistakes and watch us succeed. They have also given me the opportunity to study abroad in Mexico that truly has changed many other students as well as myself. If I could, I would redo everything that I have done just so I could do it better and I would have recommended others to take this opportunity as well.

Irma Ramirez

My first year at Michigan State has been a roller coaster. Adjusting to the college life has not been easy. I have learned to be responsible, manage my time, and most important how to be selfish. Learning to be selfish had really helped me come a long way. I learned not to worry about what others are doing and to not stress out over things I can’t control. This strategy had helped me better focus on my academics. I am also very grateful to be a part of CAMP. Being a first generation college student is difficult, not knowing what to expect. Having CAMP to help out made it feel not as scary. I am proud of myself.

Victor Ramirez

My experience at MSU has been a great blessing. I have learned so much in my fall semester. I struggled and that showed me to work harder in school because nothing is easy like my mom always said. It is hard for a reason because it wasn’t everybody would do it. I am blessed with an awesome family that supports me whatever I choose. All glory goes to god.
Kimberly Monique Robles

From day one, the CAMP staff welcomed everyone with open arms. My first year at State was quite the journey. There was many times where I was overwhelmed with all of the work I had to do, but CAMP was always there to help me overcome those obstacles. Not only did the CAMP staff help me overcome academic challenges, but also with personal issues I was dealing with. Coming from South Texas, it was a real crazy transition that I had to adjust to. There is so many resources that I was introduced to through the program and there were so many great opportunities that I was given. I thought I was going to be facing college alone with no friends, but through the CAMP Program I made SO many friendships that I know I will carry on with me for a long while. Not only does the CAMP Program push you to do your best in your studies, but it also helps you realize that you have a home away from home with the other CAMP Scholars. The CAMP Staff is so fabulous, I love that I had the chance to meet them because they are all so funny and awesome. I am grateful to have been given the opportunity to pursue my education after high school to a top university. (A big shout out to Aleida Martinez and Elias Lopez for helping me realize my full potential) This is the starting point to the rest of my life and I am stoked to find out what life has in store for me, so a massive thank you to the CAMP Program.

Jorge Luis Rodriguez

My first year here at MSU has been pretty good and has made me want to stay here for my four years. The professors here are great because I actually learn from them. Some of the classes were difficult because of the different ways the professors taught, but other classes were just like the others. I’ve liked the fact that busses here will take you where you want to go in campus and out of campus. People have said that MSU is a pretty good school and looking at my first year here I can’t see why not.

Corina Itzel Rosas

My first year at MSU was not an easy year, especially because I knew very little of what it meant to chose classes or have classes chosen for you. Staying up late studying and waking the next day for a 7 am class wasn’t something I was very fond of, but over time I began to not dislike it because I could see the progress I was making. This school has offered me many things from career internships to indulging in fun activities. Msu is a very big eye opener for me. My first year at MSU could be summoned up as fun.
Alexandra Ruiz

Who would have known that leaving my small hometown, known as Immokalee would have been the most amazing step that I could have taken in my life. Coming to Michigan State and becoming a part of CAMP was one of the goals I had for two years. When I first came to MSU it hit me, I am on my journey to complete my life mission and be free. It was time to chase my dreams, time to put in work in order to help my family succeed in life. I encountered many setbacks this year, but I had a group of people surrounding me to assure me I wouldn’t fail in life. I want to give a special shout out to Mama Patty for being there for me since day one. Without you and your kind words I don’t know how I would have survived this school year. Thanks for lending me your shoulder to cry on, for your

Alfredo Ruiz

I want to thank the CAMP program first of all for giving me the opportunity to be part of their family. My first year was rough but with the CAMP program I was able to handle it, they provided me with resources I would have never known about if it weren’t for them. The trip to Mexico really opened my eyes and made me realize that I am so lucky to have this opportunity to be here at State and I just want to say thank you CAMP and Staff!

Cassandra Solis

I want to thank God for giving me the opportunity of experiencing a new life. I want to thank my mom and dad for the support they have given me since I moved so far away from home to make difference in our lives. Also, if it weren’t for the CAMP program and for everything Rudy, Luis, and Aleida have done for me and student in my class we would completely lost and absolutely wouldn’t be successful. They have opened so many doors for us and have served us plenty of opportunities to succeed in MSU for this and much more thank you and may God bless you all.

Eduardo Sosa

My first year experience at MSU has been better then what I could ever imagine. At first it was difficult the transition from high school to university because I had a lot of free time and decided not to do what I needed to do to have good grades. I was used to studying the night before and pass my exams but, I notice in a university level this will not get me anywhere. Apart from my studies the diversity at MSU is something else I have meet people from all over the world and I am really good friends with them. I have expanded my network. I really enjoy my first year experience being a SPARTAN!! GO GREEN! GO WHITE!!
Anthonas Thermidor
Reflecting back on my first year at State, I would not change a thing. I am glad I did not listen to my parents about not coming here and attending a community college that was closer to home. I am thankful to all that played a role during my first year of college and made my first year at MSU a successful one.

Edgar Torres-Salinas
My first year at Michigan State University was hard at first because of the transition, from being close to my family, to being states away. I realized that this eventually would come and I knew I had to start taking adult responsibilities now. Being in Michigan State University has changed me a lot for good, it has made me into a person with a future set and ambitious. I also realized Michigan State University is a very diverse school with over 40 thousand people and it’s an honor to be here.

Natalie Maxine Valdez
Coming to Michigan State, I knew things were going to get a little tough. I was making a big transition from a high school to a university, especially since I’m a Texas girl. I admit adjusting to this new environment was definitely not easy, but the CAMP program was what made me feel more at home. They gave me the opportunity to meet many amazing people who also shared the same background as I did, and also provided me with many resources such as books and supplies for classes. I can’t thank them enough for making this big move a smooth transition.

Roberto Villela
The importance of education is influenced differently in every school around the world. Unfortunately for me, my education was not taken very seriously. Coming to Michigan State, known as a top university was a culture shock. I had to learn things I was never taught, and I had to learn them quickly. More than just a transition it was almost like being dropped into a game in which I didn’t know how to play, and was expected to be a pro in it. Being in CAMP was a blessing that help my transition become less stressful and more enjoyable. With student success as its main priority, there is no child left behind.
LOOKING BACK
2014 MSU CAMP Scholars
Earning Degrees

Undergraduate:

Raquel Arevalo
Clarissa Calzada
Akillah Christopher
Maria Gonzalez
Reyes Gonzalez
Angel Hernandez
Lorena Hernandez
Ruby Lopez
Blanca Morales
Violeta Nieves
Elisa Perez
Jasmin Ramirez
Thomas Raya
Fernando Solis
Amanda Torres
Brenda Tule
Sonia Viera

Graduate:

Ivette Aremi Galarza
Renold JeanLouis
Miguel Torres

Doctoral:

Felipe Lopez Sustaita
Akkillah Christopher

For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Jeremiah 29:11. MSU has allowed me the opportunity to discover more about the world around me, but more importantly, myself. College has shaped and molded me into the hardworking woman I am today. C.A.M.P. gave me my first taste of studying abroad volunteering in Mexico. It was a life changing experience; I wish I could have brought all of the little girls from the orphanage back with me : ) I fell in love with traveling and after that was blessed with the opportunity to study abroad two more times during my undergrad. Who would’ve thought a little African American girl from Immokalee would be in places such as the United Kingdom and Australia. This journey wouldn’t have been possible without the advice and support of many people. First and foremost I would like to thank God for giving the strength, motivation and ability to attend college. Without him none of this would even be possible. Thank you to the C.A.M.P. staff, Mr. Murray Edwards, Dr. Bonita Curry, and Dr. Maybanks for always believing in me, encouraging me and financing me throughout this experience. I couldn’t have done it with out you guys. Lastly, I would like to thank my family and friends for their support and love. It was your love and encouragement that kept me going. I am proud to be a Spartan. GO GREEN!

Reyes Gonzalez

These past four years have been years full of exciting and new experiences that one can ask for. It was not an easy ride. It has been a ride with full of obstacles that I have overcome thanks from all the support from my friends, family, and peers and to all the CAMP staff that has been supporting me throughout this time. I am so grateful having the support from the CAMP staff that has been there since day one; guiding and supporting me on all my ups and down I had faced in MSU.

Blanca Morales

Firstly, I would like to thank the CAMP program for supporting me my freshman year and afterwards. If it wasn’t for the people and friendships I made through this program I may have not stayed at MSU after my first semester. I couldn’t have asked for a better IEP than the late Daniel Soza. He helped guide me to various resources on campus and programs I may have been interested. As well as motivated me to push forward when there were days I thought I couldn’t do something.

Furthermore, through the program I met other students that helped push me to open my horizons and join RSOs like Culturas de las Razas Unidas and Delta Tau Lambda Sorority, Inc. Through these organizations I’ve had many opportunities I never imagine to ever have. I’ve had the pleasure of attending various conferences in Chicago and Washington D.C. like USHLI. They have open doors towards internships and work opportunities with TRiO in the Office of Supportive Services. So again thank you to everyone that has supported me through this journey as I move on to another chapter in my life. GO GREEN!!!
Violeta Nieves

I majored at Michigan State University in dietetics. My parents immigrated from Michoacán, Mexico to the United States to find better “educational opportunities” to offer to their children. I am the third out of six children and the first person from my working class family to go to college. Having the opportunity to attend college has made me work harder to pursue my dreams and fight obstacles that would prevent me from succeeding in college. Due to obstacles faced, I relate to many other Latinos that strive to succeed. I want to advocate health and wellness to prevent nutrition-related diseases and ease the roadblocks that the Latino community encounters in health prevention. I feel very fortunate to have the love and support from my family and allowed me to pursue my goals and dreams. I would also like to also like to acknowledge C.A.M.P. for their support academically and financially. Other great mentors that have deeply impacted my life by inspiring and motivating me in college are Dr. Won Song, Andie Gonzalez, and Julie Plasencia. I am extremely grateful for the investments they have made into my education.

Amanda Torres

First and foremost I would like to thank CAMP because I would not be standing here as an MSU graduate without their help. I also want to thank my mother, Angeline Sauceda and my grandmother, Ofelia Elizalde. They both raised me and made me the person I am today. They supported me through all of my struggles and they pushed me to want more out of life. I came to CAMP as a transfer student from Delta College in Saginaw, Michigan. I could not get into a four-year university on my own and CAMP gave me an opportunity to come to Michigan State University. My first year with CAMP was one of the best experiences I have ever had. I met a lot of great people and made many lifelong friends. I also had a great mentor, Mr. Daniel Soza, who I knew previously through much of his work in Saginaw. I was nervous at first about living on campus, it was my first time being away from home and my family. I am thankful for Mr. Soza because he reminded me of home. I remember stopping by his office and we would talk about everything and anything. Mr. Soza made a great impact on the Hispanic community in Saginaw. He also inspired many people to embrace where they came from and to use their experiences to shape them into the person they wanted to be. I hope I can be an inspiration for my family by being the first person to graduate from college. I want to show them that it is possible to succeed in life and there is hope as long as you push yourself. I owe my success thus far to CAMP,

Sonia Viera

My name is Sonia Viridiana Viera. First of all, I want to thank CAMP for giving me the opportunity be a Spartan at Michigan State University. My journey as an undergrad has not been easy. With hard work, dedication and perseverance I am steps closer to one of my goals in life. My undergrad career has been filled with memorable moments that I will cherish for the rest of my life. I have made long life friendships and have learned so much from a large group of diverse people. I have participated in many professional development opportunities within my jobs and with campus organization that have strengthened my desire to pursue a career that I will enjoy. I am extremely grateful for all the help CAMP gas provided me with as a continuing CAMP scholar. I am very near that alumni status and let me tell you, it feels awesome! Agradesco a mi familia porque gracias a su cariño, apoyo y confianza he llegado a realizar dos de mis más grandes metas en la vida. La culminación de mi carrera profesional y el hacerlos sentirse orgullosos de esta persona que tanto los ama. Mil gracias a todos! Go green, Go white!!
Ivette Aremi Galarza  
*MSU College of Arts and Letters: Masters of Arts in Hispanic Literatures*  
The experiences as a graduate student at Michigan State University have been a life changing experience and I would like to thank all those individuals who helped me in this journey. Thanks to the College Assistant Migrant Program for the opportunity, support, and guidance. I’m forever grateful to this program and words are not enough to express it. Special thanks to Mrs. Olga Santiago and Emily Holley for believing in me since the beginning and throughout, I cannot thank you both enough for the immense love and support you gave me. To my family and friends alike, thank you for all the love, inspiration and encouragement. I’m grateful for having each and every one of you in my life. Finalmente, quisiera reconocer a mis padres, Lorena y Clemente. Estoy eternamente agradecida por el inmenso trabajo que tuvieron que perdurar para que yo llegara tan lejos. A pesar de que la vida me llevo por otros caminos fuera de mi casa y de mi tierra, ustedes han sido mi fuerza e inspiración para seguir adelante…los extraño tanto. Now I’m proud to say that it is an honor and a privilege to graduate as a Michigan State CAMP Graduate Scholar. Congratulations to the graduating class of 2014!

Renold Jeanlouis  
*MSU College of Human Medicine: Masters of Public Health in Public Health*  
My journey here at Michigan State University started (MSU) what seems like a decade ago: okay it has only been six years. A small town kid from Immokalee, Florida was given the opportunity to attend a BIG10 university. Like many students before me, I was unprepared and had no idea of the challenges that were laid out in front of me. I was given the opportunity to attend MSU through the help and support of College Assistant Migrant Program (CAMP), without their help I could not see myself attending MSU because I would have fallen short of their requirements.  

CAMP accepted me into their program and it was my job to prove to them it was worth the opportunity and with their support and resources I graduated with my Bachelors degree in four years with a major in Sociology. I thought I was done with school but something kept telling me to go back so I did. This year I will be graduating with a Masters of Public Health degree with a focus on Environmental Health. I sit here today and reminisce about the times I couldn’t find the strength to move forward with my education. I look back and think about the first time I seen the Michigan State University sign on Harrison and Trowbridge and now, today, the seed that was planted six years ago has grown into a strong and bright flower that shall be forever thankful to Migrant Student Services. Thank you for accepting me into your program, thank you for the support and resources, and lastly thank you for hiring me as a Graduate Assistant. If I break down everything that I have experienced and learned as a Graduate Assistant this paragraph would turn into a five-paragraph essay.
My name is Miguel Torres as a Mexican American Migrant Farmworker I began my education not knowing what to expect. Having been told in life I was not going to make it in high school or MSU made me preserve even more to prove everyone wrong. MSU CAMP invested in me when no other schools even took interest.

I want to specially thank the Michigan State University Migrant Student Services staff from CAMP/HEP/ID&R and the HEP students for providing me the motivation to continue when it was really needed. I want to dedicate my Masters to my Family who has taught me the value of hard work pays off. As the recruiter for the Michigan State University High School Equivalency Program I’m looking forward in applying the knowledge that I have gained to take the HEP program & GED students to new heights.

I want to extend a gratitude to Nuestra Familia Spring 04 Por La Patria Latino Americana hermanos. My Future plans consist of earning a PhD and establishing a foundation to assist migrant farm worker students with education and community development. The following quote from Cesar Chavez is something I carry with every single day. “Once social change begins, it cannot be reversed. You cannot uneducate the person who has learned to read. You cannot humiliate the person who feels pride. You cannot oppress the people who are not afraid anymore. We have seen the future, and the future is ours.”

A Special thanks to
Graduate Assistant, Abigail Warszawski:

Abigail L. Warszawski: College Social Work Major: Clinical Social Work

My two years with Migrant Student Services (MSS) and the College Assistance Migrant Program (CAMP) has been a wonderful experience and a truly life changing opportunity for me. I first joined CAMP as a Clinical MSW intern back in August 2012. The next semester I was hired on as a graduate assistant and I haven’t let them get rid of me since! Words cannot express how grateful I am for the experiences I’ve had and for the people I’ve met with the program. I never could have anticipated how much I would learn and grow as a person from my time spent with the CAMP scholars. Initially, coming in as an outside to a new and unfamiliar group, I was admittedly nervous I would not fit in. I couldn’t have been more wrong- never in my life have I felt more embraced or welcomed by a community. I am truly honored to be a part of the CAMP family and proud to be a member of MSS. That being said, I would like to thank the following…. Patty Joly, Titun Maiti, and Susan Chalgian for always being so helpful and for your smiling faces around the office. Elias Lopez for being fantastic at his job and recruiting the best to Michigan State! Renold, Ivette, and David for being a great graduate group to collaborate with and know! Mrs. Aleida Martinez-Flores for being a motivator and role model to our scholars & for being a member of GPFY (with Bruce Lack). Lastly, I’d like to thank Luis Garcia for allowing me the opportunity to be a part of this program and for Rudy Ramos for believing in and supporting me every step of the way! I will never forget my time here- gracias a todos por todo.
Felipe Lopez Sustaita is the youngest of eight siblings, he was born in Matehuala, San Luis Potosi, Mexico. He immigrated to the US when he was very young and worked as a migrant farm worker until he started college. He is part of the 2001 CAMP class. He earned a BA in Criminal Justice in 2005 and a Master of Social Work in 2007 both degrees from Michigan State University. In May of 2014 he will complete his Doctorate in Education with a specialization in Community College Leadership from Ferris State University. Felipe will be graduating with the highest honors. He is currently the LUCERO Coordinator and Academic Advisor at Lansing Community College. He is married to Danielle Lopez and has three young boys, Felipe, Amancio, and Sion. His goal is to become a community college president within the next 5 years.

Felipe is dedicating his Doctorate Degree to his late father Felipe Lopez Rocha who passed away his sophomore year of college and to his amazing mother Magdalena Lopez Sustaita who lives in Donna, Texas.
Oaxaca, Mexico
Puebla, Mexico
Merida, Mexico

03/02/2014
Campeche, Mexico
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Grad Assitant

Renold JeanLouis
Grad Assitant

Ivette Galarza
Grad Assitant
In Memory and Tribute

DANIEL G. SOZA

1948-2014

We are deeply saddened by the recent passing of Mr. Daniel G. Soza who was instrumental in the success of many students at Michigan State University, especially our Latino and College Assistance Migrant Program students.

His passion to help others is documented in his many years of service as the first Latino city councilman in Saginaw, Michigan, Delta Community College counselor, and Michigan State University academic advisor.

Migrant Student Services – MSU CAMP extends their sincere regrets and remains grateful for Mr. Soza’s many years of dedication to our migrant students. We will remember his kind and gentle ways as he offered his skills and service to our youth.

“A loss to the world and a blessing to heaven”
Special Thanks To:

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Michigan Department of Human Services
Mr. Richard Baks
Ms. Minerva Castamenda Lopez
MSUFCU
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