



UNIVERSITY OF
SOUTH FLORIDA
COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

HEP /CAMP Highlights

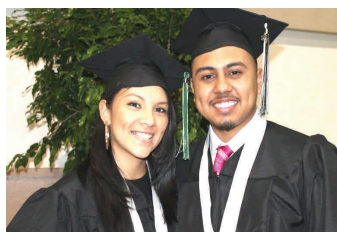
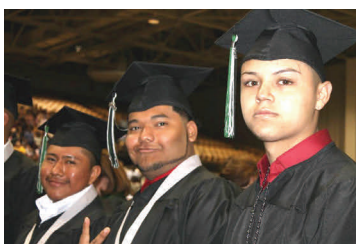
Center for Migrant Education

VOLUME 4, ISSUE 2

SUMMER 2013

Moving Towards the Future

2012 - 2013 HEP Graduates



Some of the 2012 - 2013 HEP Graduates taking time for a photo opportunity.

HEP (High School Equivalency Program) (PR#S141A090025) and CAMP (College Assistance Migrant Program) (PR#S149A090027) are federally funded grants through the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Migrant Education. They are administered through the Center for Migrant Education in the Department of Special Education at USF. They are designed to assist eligible participants from migrant and seasonal farmworker backgrounds.

THIS ISSUE

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Congratulation 2012 - 2013 HEP Graduates

Collier County

Jessica Aguirre
Jose Deleon
Henry Gomez
Ramiro Guerrero
Jesus Hernandez
Christina Salazar

Desoto County

Amy Herrera
Erick Reyes

Hardee County

Emilio Delarosa
Juan Martinez

Highlands County

Saul Mendoza
Elder Salvador

Hillsborough County

Gian Ricardo Alfaro
Maricruz Arvizu
Adam Bernadino
Gabriel Cerda
Diana Chavez
Alejandro Garcia
Patricia Guadalupe
Siriaco Heredia
Maribel Lopez
Rodolfo Lopez
Ana Martinez
Marcela Martinez
Miguel A. Martinez
Miguel Angel Martinez
Antonio Meza
Gregorio Moctezuma
Jose Luis Rivas
Fernando Sanchez
Daniel Soriano
Juan Marcos Vargas
Arturo Vazquez
Brianna Ward
Nicole Ward
Jose Zepeda

Manatee County

Eric Deleon
Hana Florez
Jenaci Lozano
Juan Lozano
Eliseo Pacheco
Adolfo Pena
Lorenzo Ramirez

Orange County

Selene Carrasco
Jocelyn Luciano
Emanuel Torres

Polk County

Melinda Cruz
Rafael Cruz
Vilma Chavez
Sergio Guerrero
Juan Noriega
Jhoana Pelagio
Eduardo Trinidad



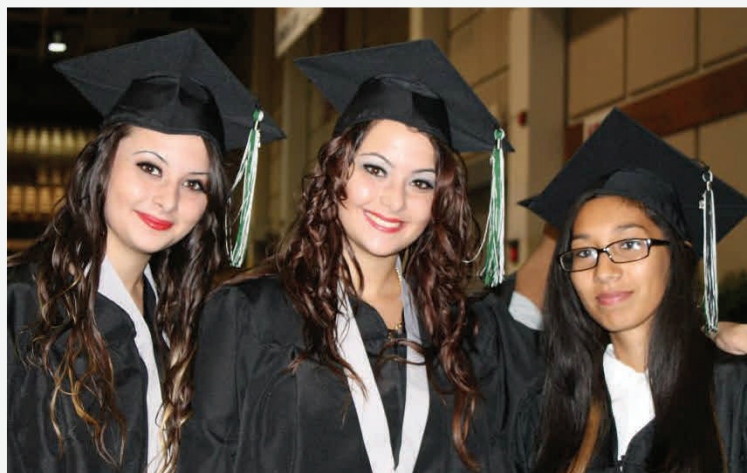
"I will recommend the HEP program to anyone who has yet to earn a high school diploma!" Jose Zepeda, HEP graduate (center).

Also in the picture Antonio Meza (left) and Fernando Sanchez (right)



Where are they now? All three HEP graduates are enrolled in post-secondary education.

From left to right: Brianna and Nicole Ward both enrolled at Concorde Career Institute and Amy Herrera enrolled at South Florida State College.



What do you do when a student surpasses all expectations and goes above and beyond his or her prescribed curriculum? At the High School Equivalency Program (HEP) students are recognized for their efforts. Juggling a demanding schedule, extracurricular activities, and life at the dormitory can sometimes eclipse academic performance. It is challenging attending classes all day! Most of our residents and commuter students do a fantastic job at keeping a balance while attending five classes daily and absorbing all that the University of South Florida has to offer; some students excel and shine like bright stars during the 8 week program. This year HEP instructors had the opportunity to work with 4 students who stood out above all others and deserved to be recognized. They were recognized during our Academic Award Ceremony in which students and staff exchanged memories, ate breakfast together, and recognized the "Student of the Session". Each student received a gift of USF memorabilia and a certificate.



Vilma was a hard working HEP student. She stood out as the most mature and engaged of students in this session and truly deserved our special recognition. Vilma is a good thinker and avid learner." Maria Diaz-Vega, HEP teacher

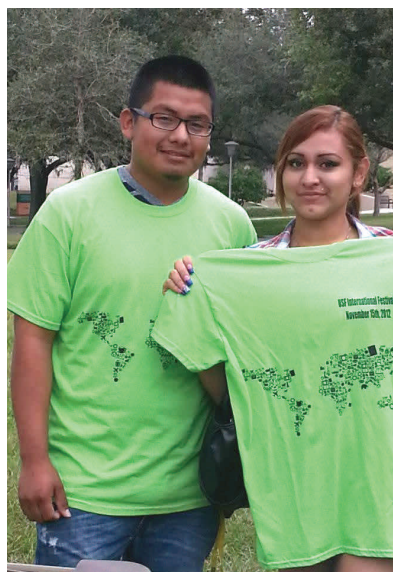
Vilma Chavez was an exemplary student who was punctual and always had her work completed. This trilingual student had a work ethic like no other. She was an outstanding student who was well aware of her strengths and challenges.

Amy Herrera was diligent, mature and enjoyed helping others. She participated in many of our extracurricular activities and even invited her family to join us in our annual CAMP/HEP Family Day.



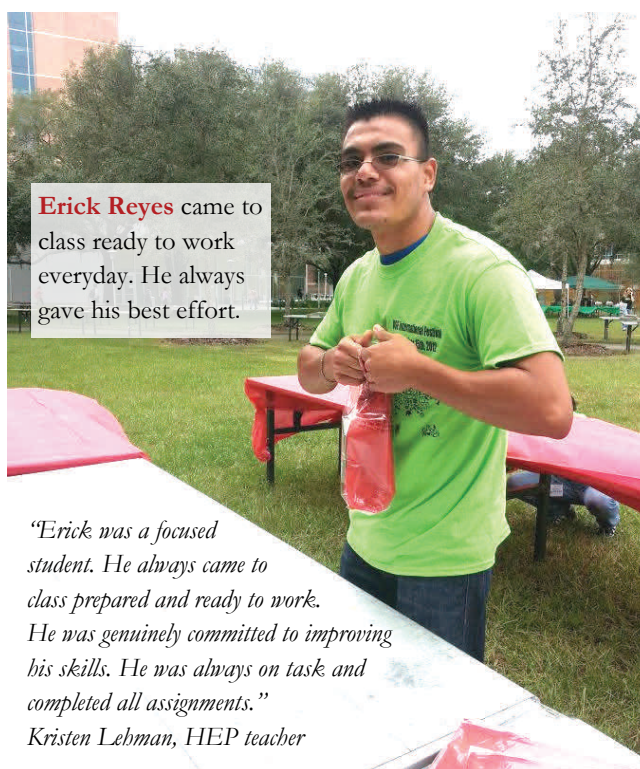
"Amy was a conscientious student. She was well organized and determined to do her best...She is likely to go on to be a teacher and will be an asset to the field." Kristen Lehman, HEP teacher

"Rodolfo Lopez was an outstanding student: respectful, engaged, and committed. He has a great potential for academics, and I hope that he can fulfill his dream of attending technical school."
Maria Diaz-Vega, HEP teacher



Rodolfo Lopez was a mature student whose critical thinking skills were outstanding. Rodolfo was bright, well adjusted and acted logically. Here he is volunteering at the USF International Festival with classmate Maribel Lopez.)

Erick Reyes came to class ready to work everyday. He always gave his best effort.



"Erick was a focused student. He always came to class prepared and ready to work. He was genuinely committed to improving his skills. He was always on task and completed all assignments."
Kristen Lehman, HEP teacher

Student Success

CAMP Student, Pedro Zamora (bottom left), was the recipient of the 2012 Migrant Farmworker Baccalaureate Scholarship.

HEP Student, Nicole Ward (right), was the recipient of the National Migrant Association scholarship. She received \$500 to assist with her studies. Upon graduation, she enrolled in a dental technician program at a local school.



Congratulations to members of CAMP's First Cohort who graduated in 4 years!



*Xavier Vega (left) with his sister
Major: English*



*Isidro Francisco
Major: Health Science*



*Jose Luis Chavez
Major: Management Information
Systems*



The Center for Migrant Education hosts a HEP/CAMP family day every January and it has now become the preferred way to kick start the new semester for staff and students alike. We were blessed with perfect weather. The sun was shining as the families arrived at the beautiful USF Riverfront Park, just blocks away from the main campus. The Hillsborough River was glistening as some budding photographers snapped pictures of their friends and family with phones, digital cameras, and professional cameras as well.

This year the kids had a blast decorating mini wooden maracas and painting Mexican flags; the theme, after all, was “Fiesta Day”. The camaraderie was such that everyone played together and enjoyed the various games: from the arduous, such as rope pulling, to the mellow, such as Mexican Bingo. HEP and CAMP students played games and “chillaxed” as they were waiting for their turn to go on the canoe or simply eat the yummy food that was available. The DJ played danceable tunes of timeless Spanish music to more modern reggaeton music as a beautiful, fully costumed dancer made the rounds in her typical Mexican dance outfit.

This family day was truly a multi-generational party. We were very proud to see young children interacting with our CAMP students and grandfathers doing crafts with the twenty-something HEP students and others.

This day was very special to HEP teachers and staff as they got to meet their students in a very fun, relaxed atmosphere, which eases the students’ anxiety of going back to school full time and softens the nervousness that causes moving into a residential hall at a university far away from home.

Will YOU join us next year?



Alternative Spring Breaks are volunteer missions that send students across the country to assist in humanitarian causes. Bulls Service Breaks (BSB) are USF's particular Alternative Spring Break program, led by the Center for Leadership and Civic Engagement (CLCE). Created to increase awareness of social injustices and encourage cultural exchange, Bulls Service Breaks are meant to highlight problems in the community, yet show students what can be done to improve their environment.

Volunteers are partnered with local, heavily involved organizations to get hands on experience with whatever cause they sign up for. Several of our own CAMP students earned a volunteer opportunity with Bulls Service Breaks this spring and have written pieces reflecting their experiences, as well as their reactions and realizations.



CAMP Student, Jessica Barron (2nd from the right)

Memphis, Tennessee: Gang Violence

For the 2013 Bulls Service Breaks, I visited Memphis, Tennessee with seven fellow USF students. Working with Memphis Gun Down, we came to learn about Youth Gang Violence.

We began with a tour of the Frayser neighborhood, witnessing the extreme poverty and industrial collapse that gave the area a very bleak vibe and we ended our tour by taking part in a vigil held for the victims of gang violence, led by Judge Mathis.

Watching so many families tell so many stories of so many loved ones they would never see again was an eye opener for all of us. We saw how devastating the problem was, how desperate and vicious the gangs were, but we also saw how well the people were able to come together as a community.

Later that week, we hosted a barbeque alongside the 901 B.L.O.C. Squad, a group dedicated to keeping kids out of gangs. Amongst their members are ex-convicts who share their experience and insight to discourage youth violence. The Squad hopes to provide a safe haven for kids at community centers, reaching out to potential gang members, warning them of the life they will lead and informing them of better opportunities.

We also got the chance to work with the Blight Patrol, a group of ex-convicts and ex-gang members who do road clean-up projects. Members of the Patrol also share their past experiences with children, hoping to talk them out of joining gangs, encouraging them to do good. The Blight Patrol literally cleans up the streets, allowing people to appreciate their community and realize that they can make a difference if they work together.

Not only did working with so many amazing people make me appreciate everything that I have, but we also got to see a great deal of Memphis: Beale St, the Mississippi River, the Memphis Zoo, STAX Records museum, we even caught a glimpse of Graceland. All in all, it was a great trip that I felt lucky to be a part of.

By Jessica Barron (Major: Mass Communication)

Washington D.C. : Homeless

Spring Break 2013 will hands down be the most influential seven days of my life. I had the honor to represent CAMP, USF, and the migrant community on a weeklong service trip to Washington D.C.

I never thought I would be the first person in my family to see Capitol Hill, to stand face to face with so many magnificent buildings and monuments. Unfortunately, I was in this beautiful city because the streets were full of homeless people, and they needed help.

My group teamed up with the Steinbruck Center, N. Street Village, and Capital Area Food Bank in an attempt to fight hunger and homelessness in Washington D.C. I learned that the issue that leads to homelessness is a lack of affordable housing which causes a chain reaction of debilitating problems for hard working people.

There is no simple reason why people end up homeless, and they need our help to get out of their situation.

The journey was unbelievable and I was glad to have enjoyed it with one of the most diverse group of students I've ever met. I believe that BSB is a one of a kind experience and I am thankful to have been sponsored by CAMP. I hope that anyone who reads this considers getting involved with Bulls Service Break.

By Andres Martinez (Major: Biology)



CAMP Students, Andres Martinez (right) & Marcos Gonzalez (4th top from the left) with their Spring Break Team

Greenville, South Carolina: Poverty

This spring break I was honored to be involved with Bulls Service Breaks. My group and I visited Greenville, South Carolina to help residents currently living in poverty. During our stay we volunteered at a homeless shelter, a soup kitchen, a construction site, a learning center, and we participated in several environmental cleanup projects.

I saw how much impact a few dedicated students could make, but I would really like to elaborate on the homeless shelter Miracle Hill where I was fortunate enough to volunteer.

Miracle Hill has definitely made a tremendous impact on my life. This non-profit organization opens their doors to homeless men addicted to drugs and alcohol. Miracle Hill strengthens these men to get back on their feet and prosper by reconciling them with their family, introducing them to God, and helping them find employment. I've seen how much of a difference Miracle Hill could make, and I want to be as constructive as them.

I am now more grateful towards the people in my life and the gifts God gives me every day. I seek to participate in even more community service projects here at the University and in my own community so that I can grow as a person.

My experience with this alternative spring break program was phenomenal and unforgettable. I'd like to thank the College Assistance Migrant Program for sponsoring my trip and making my mission a reality.

By Daniel Guzman-Ramos (Major: Civil Engineer)



CAMP Student, Daniel Guzman-Ramos (left) with fellow Spring Break participants

Mobile, Alabama: Public Health (HIV/AIDS Awareness)

This spring break I participated in USF Bulls Service break as a Site Leader. My group and I traveled to Mobile, Alabama to volunteer with South Alabama Cares where we helped clean the homes of HIV positive clients who were too sick to do so alone.

These people opened up to us and shared their experiences living with the virus. As a result, I will never forget the look of appreciation on their faces after they saw all the work we had done. We were also able to volunteer in the SAC office, helping clients get tested for HIV, distributing general information about the virus.

Our group also volunteered at a homeless shelter. We had an opportunity to learn about the people living in the shelter. Their stories were compelling and made me realize that those living in the shelters deserved attention, respect, and another opportunity to get on their feet.

Before the trip I didn't know much about HIV/ AIDS, and I was really close-minded about the issue. However, I'm extremely thankful for meeting such wonderful people who expanded my awareness. BSB

opened my eyes to what it is like living with HIV/AIDS, and now that I've returned to USF I want to share what I've learned with my friends and family. I want to spread the knowledge I've come across and help people stay safe and informed. I want to keep helping people. It amazes me how much a small group of college students can help out a community in a single week, and it inspires me to keep helping others because I know I can make a difference.

By Daisy Olvera (Major: Nursing)



Daisy Olvera (3rd from the right) with her Spring Break Team

Washington D.C. : Homeless

My BSB trip to Washington D.C. is by far one of the most memorable experiences I've had here at USF. The streets of our nation's capital are littered with hunger & homelessness on every corner, and this trip broke many of the stereotypes I held.

Homeless people aren't all addicted to drugs and alcohol. Most of them are actually still employed; some even have their Master's Degree. They are simply the victims of unfortunate events that put them out on the streets, fighting for their lives. The most important take away I had from this trip is to treat these people kindly because one day it could be me out there on the streets asking for a loaf of bread.

By Marcos Gonzalez (Major: Business)



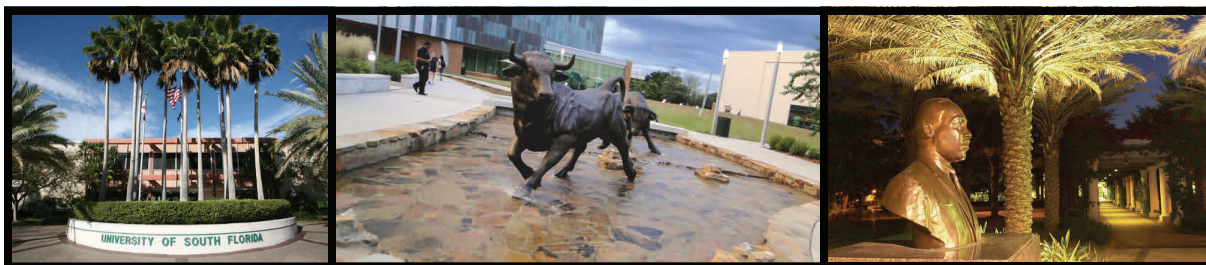
Interested in Visiting the USF Campus?

Groups of 9 or larger are to contact the New Student Welcome Center at 813-974-7878, preferably 45 days in advance.

Tours last between 1hr to 90 minutes and are available Monday through Friday.

Groups that have scheduled an official visit are provided an informational session given by one of the admissions representatives. In the event that the slots are to capacity and additional tours cannot be accommodated, we encourage groups to do "self-guided tours" in which they can explore the campus on their own and pick up information for the group at the New Student Welcome Center.

****After confirmation has been received regarding your tour,
please contact Ruby Luis at the Center for Migrant Education to confirm your itinerary****



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Department of Special Education
Center for Migrant Education
4202 E Fowler Ave, EDU 105
Tampa, FL 33620

Phone: 813-974-5806

Fax: 813-974-0485

Web: www.coedu.usf.edu/cme

Visiting the campus: Human Services Building (HMS) 206
(Please make sure to have an appointment)



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