HEP CAMP

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CENTER FOR MIGRANT EDUCATION

SUMMER EDITION VOLUME 11 20222

Follow along to gain new insights on what's new, student highlights, graduates, and more!



UNIVERSITY of SOUTH FLORIDA College of Education

Center for Migrant Education

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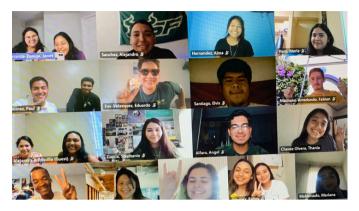
CAMP Alumni

A blast from the past ...

The HEP/CAMP program continued strong in uncertain times when the pandemic struck March of 2020.

HEP instructors sprang into action quickly developing online assignments using Google Classroom and learning how to utilize Zoom Cloud Meetings to conduct virtual class sessions. Teachers and tutors were flexible and scheduled Zoom make up and/or tutorial sessions with individual students. Operating remotely helped the teachers rethink the way they served their students and redesign the methods to help them achieve their goal. Though times were challenging, with unwavering commitment, creativity, and effort HEP instructors met their ultimate objective. The great majority of the students earned their high school diploma, which is of course, the ultimate reward.

The CAMP program excelled; student advising, seminars, tutoring, and mentoring adjusted to the virtual norm. Communication played a large factor in the success of students. This past year students continued the easy platform of virtual meetings and have slowly transitioned back to in-person. We are looking forward to improving the program with all we have learned these previous two years.



2020-2021 Virtual Scavenger Hunt Social

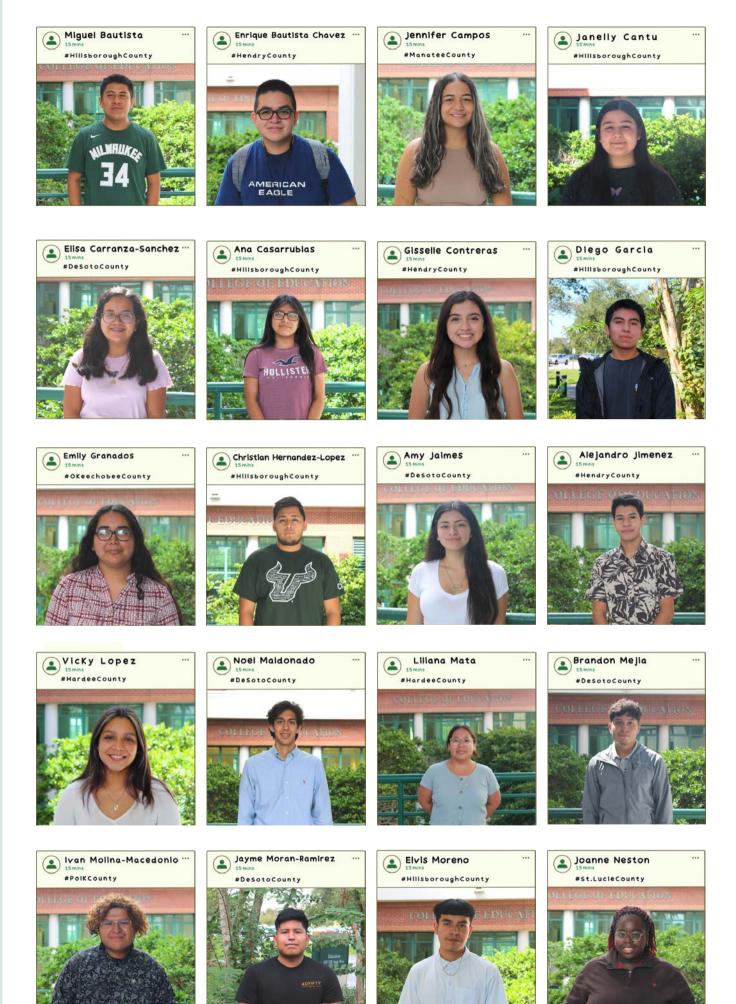


2020-2021 Halloween Virtual Social



2021-2022 Summer Virtual Social

USF is a high-impact, global research university dedicated to student success. HEP (High School Equivalency Program) (PR#S141A190007) and CAMP (College Assistance Migrant Program) (PR#S149A190002) 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 College of Education at USF. They are designed to assist eligible participants from migrant and seasonal farmworker backgrounds.







2021-2022 CAMP Cohort Students received their completion certificates at our annual end of the year celebration.

Ambassadors & Community Involvement



Students from Clewiston and LaBelle High Schools touring USF. Families of 2022-2023 CAMP scholars Arnold Jimenez from Pahokee and Berenice Verdugo from Crescent City also came along. The CAMP Ambassador Program is a volunteer peer-to-peer collaborative effort to assist CAMP's recruitment of students to USF. Ambassadors lead exciting group tours, participate in panel discussions, and work alongside the mentoring program to help organize various CAMP functions such as socials and community service events. This academic year marked significant growth and recognition for the program with recruitment surpassing its annual goal.

"It is a nice feeling being able to give back to the community, CAMP has been there for me since my first year and being a volunteer has only influenced me to do better. It is always exciting seeing new students ready to become a Bull!" - Alondra Garcia-Huizache



Immokalee Foundation sponsored high school juniors touring USF.



CAMP Ambassadors

Left to Right: Rosalba Neri-Baxcajay, Georgina Baustista, Mardochee Bellevue, Fabio Louis, Andrea Hernandez-Sabanilla, Stephanie Garcia, Alondra Garcia-Huizache, Marvella Morales-Lopez, Elvis Santiago



In April of 2022, Gasparilla Distance Classic Association donated a large number of shirts to protect Florida's farmworkers from sun and pesticide exposure. The shirts have been distributed to farmworker organizations throughout the state.

Pictured: Patrick Doone (Left) and Gary Moses (Right)



In March of 2022, CAMP Ambassadors hosted an informative Farmworker Awareness session for employees at Feeding Tampa Bay (FTB).

Pictured from left to right: Jacqueline Leon, Alondra Garcia-Huizache, Jazmin Sanchez

Far right: Ronkevious Smalls, Assistant Director of Employee Experience for FTB

Bulls Service Break Experience

Bull service breaks are spring break programs led by the Center for Leadership and Civic Engagement, created to increase awareness of social injustice and encourage cultural exchange. Bull's service breaks highlight problems in the community while showing students what can be done to improve the environment.

Volunteers are partnered with local organizations to get hands-on experience with social causes. CAMP sponsored students to participate in the program this spring. Below they share their reflections on the experience.



CAMP Student: Jazmin Sanchez, third to the left



CAMP Student: Christian Hernandez, far right



CAMP Students Jazmin Sanchez & Christin Hernandez, exploring Miami with their BSB group.

Miami, Florida Human Trafficking

Participating in the Bulls service break was a great opportunity. It turned out to be one of the most memorable weeks of my life and something that I will always reflect upon. We learned about human and sex trafficking. Addressing the topic of human and sex trafficking helped tackle some of the United Nations Sustainability goals like gender inequality and promoting peace, justice, and strong institutions. We had detectives come in to talk about their experiences and we also had a survivor come in to talk about her past. The survivor's story is what really got to me because it is hard to hear about some of the situations she had to deal with as a young teenager and how it kept her in a cycle. The topic is not always an easy one to hear about due to the traumatic and harsh side of it, but it does need to be addressed since it is something that we are trying to stop moving forward. Overall, I really enjoyed being a part of this experience along with others who I got to meet who were wonderful people. I am grateful for the opportunity and my intent is to keep spreading awareness of Human and Sex trafficking to others.

By Christian Hernandez

This trip has shown me a new perspective on human trafficking. We experienced a glimpse of life in Miami for children, adults, labor and sex trafficking victims. We learned that the impact of one person can change one's life entirely as well as how to approach someone involved or a survivor. We were told unfortunate stories of events involving children being trafficked. While gaining all this knowledge, we also had the opportunity to share it with the people of Miami to inform them of what can be happening right in front of them. This is truly an experience I will never forget. I met amazing people including our host who would make us an amazing dinner every night of our stay. On our way back to Tampa we realized how much impact this trip made and how much we learned in such a short time.

Charleston, South Carolina

Affordable Housing

By Jazmin Sanchez

My participation in Bulls Service Break left me with a wonderful experience that I will carry for the rest of my life. The cause was to become aware of all the hard work that goes into building affordable houses for families under the standard median income. Our main objective was to volunteer two days out of five days at the Habitat for Humanity Restore and three days at the building site of the house Habitat is building for the family. Our host family appreciated the dedication and hard work we put in the effort to contribute to their house since they know that construction is not easy for somebody without experience of the hard demand construction is. I gained a lot of knowledge about how to nail panels and all the hard work that goes into building a house. Habitat for Humanity is doing an amazing job gathering funds for the construction of other houses. I am aware now that the process families have to go through to have an affordable house built for them is not just an easy application, but they need to volunteer several hours at the Restore, building sites and the community, along with completing educational modules that guide them on financial stability. Lastly, I take away the long-lasting friendships I developed throughout the trip.



CAMP Student: Elisa Carranza, far left

Student Spotlight

"CAMP has helped me navigate the college experience at USF by always supporting me."

Graciela Cervantes

Graciela Cervantes decided she wanted to become a teacher after working as a tutor in high school. "I genuinely enjoyed working with my students," Cervantes said. "The time I spent with them was always enjoyable and it seemed to fly by. I have enjoyed learning more about how to work with kids. Everyone says that teaching is easy but there are so many things that are done behind the scenes, many things that people are not aware teachers do."

She is a participant in the Center for Migrant Education's College Assistance Migrant Program, a grant funded program that assists students from families of migrant and seasonal farmworker backgrounds in completing their first year of college and transitioning to complete their bachelor's degree. Drawn to USF because it was not too close or too far from her home in Immokalee, Fla., Cervantes felt confident in her decision to attend USF because of CAMP, which she learned about through her high school's migrant center. She says the CAMP recruiter helped her throughout the application process, and she has continued to receive the same level of personalized attention and support from the program's staff while a student at the university.



Graciela Cervantes Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education CAMP Alumna

Cervantes has thrived while attending USF. She's involved in student organizations including the Mexican-American Student Association and the GloBull Ambassadors program. She was also the recipient of numerous scholarship awards, including the USF Alumni Association's Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Scholarship, and two College of Education scholarship funds:

> Florida Tomato the Exchange Scholarship and the Sunripe Migrant Education Scholarship, both of which are awarded to migrant students majoring in education. Cervantes credits much of her success while attending USF to the support she has received through CAMP and the staff at the Center for Migrant Education. "CAMP has helped me navigate the college experience at USF by always supporting me," Cervantes said. "Even though I was in the program my freshman year, I was still able to go in and ask for help on anything during the years after. I remember going in every year to fill out my FAFSA or even to ask for help with scholarship applications." During her coursework at USF, Cervantes completed field experiences at Sessums Elementary and Cannella Elementary.

"CAMP definitely gives you a support system, especially during your freshman year," Cervantes said. "My CAMP cohort became my family and I still talk to them. Everyone that works with CAMP wants to see their students do the best possible and they make sure that we are succeeding in college."

> Today, Graciela is a third grade teacher for Eden Park Elementary School.

Upon graduation, she had teaching experience in second, third, and fifth grade classrooms—all of which have prepared her to take on her first full-time teaching role last year. When asked what advice she would give to others who hope to pursue a similar path as her own, Cervantes urged others to not be afraid of leaving home to get the full college experience. "College is an amazing experience, as long as you make it one," Cervantes said. "There will be many times where you will be pushed out of your comfort zone, but one day you will look back and realize how much you've grown as a person.



Jacquelin Flores CAMP Alumna



Jacquelin & CAMP Mentee Yerli Velasco on a kayaking excursion at USF Riverfront Park



Jacquelin volunteering with Called to Serve Farmworkers, Inc. A nonprofit org. in Mulberry, FL

Growth brings rewards by Jacquelin Flores

The National Migrant Scholars Internship (NMSI) supports migrant students who have participated in CAMP. They facilitate connections between students and employers while providing the financial assistance one may need while pursuing an internship, experiential learning, and professional development. I am incredibly happy that NMSI was able to help me with expenses during my internship. After obtaining my internship, I contacted NMSI, and they made the process very straight forward. Thanks to them I was able to get a stipend to buy professional attire as well as a stipend to help relocate closer to the office. This really took a load off my back as I was able to focus more on the experience itself and not about my living expenses.

My tax-accounting internship at Cohen & Grieb was a very rewarding experience. My job was to review workpapers for clients, organize them, and then insert them into the tax software, UltraTax. Through this, I built up my interpersonal skills like communicating more effectively with the shareholders while also learning to work independently. I managed to gain lots of cognitive skills like preparing 1040s and an overall knowledge on documents including W-2s, consolidated1099s, K-1s, etc. Towards the beginning of my internship, I remember feeling worrisome about my ability to get the job done. Other interns came from backgrounds with parents who were Certified Public Accountants, or who had been recommended from a friend currently inside the company. I, on the other hand, came prepared with only the knowledge I had learned throughout my classes. Nevertheless, I asked lots of questions and was successfully able to learn how to prepare taxes that often contained over 100 work-papers. I am very grateful for the experience because it gave me a glimpse of what the corporate world is like, what my career interests can entail, and even what to look for with future employers. The next step in my career path is to start my master's in the fall in accounting with a concentration in corporate accounting. I have been offered a job as a graduate teaching assistant (TA) teaching Principles of Financial Accounting to undergraduate students. After this, I plan to obtain my CPA license and begin working in one of the top 10 accounting firms.

If your place of work chooses you, it is because they see potential in you. The great thing about former farmworker students is that we understand the idea of working for what we want and obtaining an internship is already one step in the right direction. Growth brings rewards.

Dreams do come true

Being part of CAMP provided me with the support to make it through my first year in college and equipped me with the necessary skills to successfully graduate from college. After returning to California, I continued my general education at Palomar College and then transferred to California State University San Marcos (CSUSM). It was at CSUSM that I earned my Bachelor's degree in Human Development, making it possible for me to have a career. The family-like atmosphere and compassionate support that CAMP provided me inspired me to pursue a career in higher education where I could pay it forward.

Working at CSUSM as a Case Management Specialist I feel privileged to provide support to students experiencing personal, academic, financial, and mental health challenges. My role is extremely rewarding and I look forward to continuing to help students achieve their academic goals, which inspired me to take on another goal. I am proud and humbled to share that I earned my Master's in Education from San Diego State University with an emphasis in counseling. I did it! But I did not do it alone. It was because of programs such as CAMP and mentors such as Patrick, Ruby, Maria, and Virginia that helped me accomplish what I once thought was impossible. I am hopeful for the future, and I hope my story will inspire other Latina, immigrant women to pursue their dreams. I will be forever grateful for meeting and being part of the CAMP family.



Thriving, on an academic journey

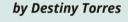
My HEP experience was definitely an amazing opportunity. The students that I came into the program with seemed to have the same goal: to succeed. I remember sitting with them in the cafeteria, going to the pool, and walking to Walmart together. I guess it was the small things that created a bond among my group. This encouraged us to ask for help within our group. My roommate, Mitzy, was awesome; I remember creating flashcards with her to study in our room. I remember studying with Carlos in the lobby. There were only two teachers, but that was all we needed. They broke down the information and made sure we understood what was being taught. I remember how happy we were for each other when we passed our tests. I could not wait to walk the stage on graduation day. Unfortunately COVID-19 hit, and the class of 2020 had to cancel graduation. This really hurt me because I never thought I would finish high school, so when I passed the GED test, all I could think about was walking across the stage with my cap and gown.

Nevertheless, one day I will walk across a stage because I started studying psychology at Miami Dade College in March of 2022. So far I am thriving on my academic journey passing my classes with an A. As I expected, college does come with some challenges. Due to COVID-19 most classes are taught online now. That means if you have any problems with technology, it can be difficult to stay on a zoom meeting, complete a research project, etc. However, a solution to this problem has been to use a library equipped for virtual learning.

I encourage any HEP students interested in going to college to do so as it will benefit them in the future. I personally enjoy being in a new environment, meeting new people, and learning new things. I'm sure they will too!



Destiny Torres HEP Graduate





HEP students attending on campus events and socials. From left to right: Ropes course, where students bonded over team building activities. Middle, on campus scavenger hunt, where students were able to explore campus and finding the resources available. Far right, holiday social, where we all gather for food, games, arts and crafts, prizes and more.

HEP Student Updates:

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Congratulations to the following HEP graduates who have continued reaching their academic goals:

| Student Name | Post-Secondary Education | Start Date | Career Path |
|----------------|--------------------------------|------------|---------------------|
| Izahri Sanchez | Hillsborough Community College | 1/2022 | Ophthalmologist |
| Diana Cordova | Erwin Technical College | 5/2022 | Surgical Technician |
| Destiny Torres | Miami Dade College | 3/2022 | Psychology |

The following HEP graduates have plans to begin community college this fall:

| Student Name | Post-Secondary Education | Start Date | Career Path |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------|------------|-----------------|
| Hector Herculano-Sanchez | Hillsborough Community College | 8/2022 | Welding Program |
| Jose Suarez Bautista | Hillsborough Community College | 8/2022 | Welding Program |

HEP Graduates 2021-2022

Alachua County Isabela Gregorio Alonzo

Collier County Adrian Aguayo Saldivar Grace Robbins Joseph Martinez

Hardee County Brianna Marie Downey Erik Jacob Herrera **Highlands County** Andrea Antonio Omar Aquino Brianna L. Diaz

Orange County Alan Palencia-Solano

Okeechobee County Julitza Urbina-Urieta



From left to right: Brianna Downey, Jesus Navarrete, Erik Herrera, Levi Baxman, Carlos Ramirez

Lee County Sonia Adalay Zuñiga Velazquez

Levy County Levi Michael Baxman

Manatee County Kaylynn Adan **Pasco County** Leydi Garcia Zarate

Polk County Christopher Chavez-Aguirre Eduardo Cortez-Baltazar Martin Huerta Javier Junior Lopez-Bautista Oscar Mendoza-Penaloza



Brianna Diaz taking a selfie with classmates.

Angel Aguilera Adam Alcantara David Amaya-Morales Lynda Avonce Daniel Bustos-Roblero Diana Cordova Rodriguez Gloria Espinoza-De Paz Marisol Garcia Jesse Garcia-Popoca Hector Herculano-Sanchez

Hillsborough County

Elisabet Hernandez Jennifer Hernandez Yaritza Hernandez-Morales Emanuel J. Jose Guadalupe Leon Sixtos Anthony P. Lopez Brenda Lopez Isaac Lopez Karen Martinez Marilyn Mejia Angelli Mendez Yor Mendoza Jesus Silvio Navarrete Misael Noyola Perla Perez Cecilia Irma Perez-Hernandez Carlos Ramirez Eduardo Roblero-Jose Adriana Saavedra Izhari Sanchez Jose Alfredo Suarez-Bautista



Left: Izahri Sanchez 11 Right: Diana Rodriguez

CAMP 2021-2022

Eppy Alvarez Health Sciences

Cory Amilcar Physical Education

Allan Joshue Avila Health Sciences

Martha Balleza Mathematics Education

Henry Calderon Integrated PR & Advertising

Ruby Figueroa Business Analytics & Information Systems

> Jacquelin Flores Accounting

Damian Gonzalez-Perez Information Studies

Jennifer Gonzalez Integrated PR & Advertising

Ebony Hernandez Integrated PR & Advertising

> Manolo Mejia Health Sciences

Juana Paniagua Health Sciences

Francisca Velasco Health Sciences



Ruby Figueroa Business Analytics & Information Systems



Allan Joshue Avila & Family Health Sciences



Juana Paniagua Health Sciences



Henry Calderon & Family Integrated PR & Advertising





Francisca Velasco Health Sciences

Manolo Mejia Health Sciences

USF Graduates



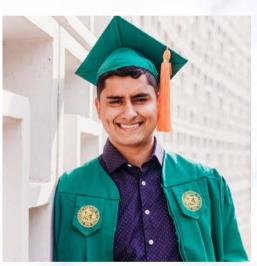


Yesenia Martinez Criminology

Janet Carranza-Zuniga Global Business



Rosalinda Meyleen Jaramillo & Family Biomedical Sciences



Ivan Garcia Chemical Engineering



Mardochee Bellevue & Family Personal Finance



Elizabeth Marquez Public Health

Mardochee Bellevue Personal Finance

Janet Carranza-Zuniga Global Business

Ivan Garcia Chemical Engineering

Nicolas Hernandez Computer Science

> Emilio Ibarra Marketing

Rosalinda Meyleen Jaramillo Biomedical Sciences

Jacquelin Leon Criminology & History

Yvette Macedonio Psychology

Yesenia Martinez Criminology

Elizabeth Marquez Public Health

Elizabeth Rodriguez Health Sciences

Andrise Octavius Social Work

CAMP Student Success

Inspired by family members who also pursued teaching careers, Cory Amilcar says he chose to study education because he grew up around the profession, and he wants to make a positive difference in students' lives. Amilcar, a USF senior who is graduating this spring, is also a member of the College Assistance Migrant Program (CAMP), a federally funded program that assists students from migrant and seasonal farmworker backgrounds with completing their first year of college and transitioning to complete their bachelor's degree. The program is managed by USF's Center for Migrant Education under the leadership of USF Professor Ann Cranston-Gingras, PhD. "I've had a couple of family members who went to college, but there wasn't a lot of college background in my family and in the town where I'm from," Amilcar said.



Cory Amilcar Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education CAMP Alumni

"I gravitated towards (CAMP) to have that support and to have someone guide me through." Amilcar, who has received support from the Center for Migrant Education during all four years of his studies at USF, said the program has provided him with individualized mentorship and advising that helped him complete his college journey. Connecting his experiences in CAMP with his studies in the College of Education also allowed him to prepare for leading his own classroom one day and to use evidence-based strategies to support student learning outcomes. After graduation, Amilcar said he hopes to become a physical education teacher in Hillsborough County Public Schools and later pursue a master's degree to become a school administrator. "(In the Center for Migrant Education,) I always had someone to help me," Amilcar said. "(There) was never a point where I felt like it was too much, or I didn't have (someone) to turn to. I always felt like there was someone in my corner who was pushing me forward and making sure I accomplished my mission."



Mayra Espinosa, MSN. APRN. FNP-C CAMP Alumna

Mayra Espinosa, CAMP Cohort of 2016-2017 earned her Masters of Science in Nursing this past spring. She has succeeded these past years in achieving her goals to become a family nurse practitioner. Today, she has earned her title of Certified Family Nurse Practitioner and Advanced Practice Registered Nurse. Mayra is currently enrolled at USF for her Doctorate in Nurse Practice. "I look forward to becoming a Dr. to hopefully run my own clinic in the future."

We congratulate Mayra on all of her success and accomplishments. We are always happy to see CAMP Alumni better their communities.

Liliana Ibarra was born and raised in Texas to immigrant parents. She is the proud daughter of a single mother and is the oldest of four children. When Liliana was in middle school, her family moved to Michigan to work in the agriculture fields. Growing up, she worked in the asparagus, cucumber, and gladiola fields alongside her mother to help provide for her family. By the time Liliana became the first person in her family to graduate from high school, she had attended over 10 schools.

In 2010, with the help of the University of South Florida's College Assistant Migrant Program (CAMP), Liliana became the first person in her family to attend college. Liliana's participation in CAMP was instrumental in her earning a number of leadership opportunities. She was selected as a recipient for the National HEP/CAMP Association Internship and interned in Washington DC with the US Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry. Liliana also studied abroad in Florence and returned to DC as a Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute recipient to intern in the office of Senator Kirsten Gillibrand. While at USF, Liliana also took on voluntary and paid leadership positions with CAMP that led to other employment opportunities and professional development.

CAMP Alumni Where are they now?



Additionally, Liliana completed a Public Policy and International Affairs program at UC Berkeley. In 2014, Liliana graduated with a degree in Interdisciplinary Social Sciences with concentrations in criminology and international studies and a minor in Political Science. After graduation, Liliana worked for two criminal defense firms in Sarasota County. In her position she worked on misdemeanor, felony, family law, and traffic matters. Liliana's interest in law led her to apply to Barry University Dwayne O. Andreas School of Law in Orlando, Florida. Liliana's passion and interest since the age of eight was in immigration, and therefore she participated in the Immigration Clinic at Barry for two semesters. As a Law Student Representative, Liliana advocated for three individuals in two different asylum hearings before an Immigration Judge. Her hard work paid off when the Judge granted all three individuals asylum in this country. During her time at Barry, Liliana also "booked" (received the highest grade) her first semester of her Legal Research and Writing I class. This allowed Liliana to become a Legal Research and Writing Teacher Assistant. Subsequently, Liliana landed in the top 32 of the Moot Court competition upon her first year.

While at Barry, Liliana also served as the event coordinator for the Immigration Law Society, was a member for Phi Alpha Delta, and was the Alumni Chair for the Hispanic American Law Student Association. During her last semester in law school, Liliana completed an externship with the State Attorney's Office in the Ninth Judicial Circuit as a Certified Legal Intern. In her capacity she acted as an Assistant State Attorney, under the supervision of a barred Assistant State Attorney, while handling a full case load and going to court. Liliana graduated from Barry University and proudly received her Juris Doctor Degree. Upon passing the Florida Bar, Liliana went back to working as a prosecutor and is currently an Assistant State Attorney in Manatee County, FL.

Interested in Visiting the USF Campus?

Groups can contact CAMP Recruiter, Brigita Gahr at brigita@usf.edu to schedule an admissions and CAMP presentation, as well as a guided walking tour of the Tampa campus led by CAMP Ambassadors. Individual students and parents interested in joining a scheduled tour by the USF Office of Admissions can contact https://www.usf.edu/about-usf/tour.aspx. If you are only available to visit USF on a weekend, Brigita may be able to provide a tour on a Saturday.



HOW TO REACH THE CENTER FOR MIGRANT EDUCATION

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HEP/CAMP Tutors Pascual Jahuey Fabian Machaen-Arredondo Angel Guevara Garcia Elvis Santiago

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