This September was an exciting time for the CAMP Program. For the first time, our students were granted early move in by University Housing and New Student Programs. Usually, if students want to move in early to the university, they are charged to do so. Because of the students’ affiliation with CAMP, they were allowed, free of charge, to come early this September. The whole reason for wanting students to have early move in was so that we could bring them off campus for a leadership retreat at the Lazy F ranch, which is just about 20 miles outside of Ellensburg. This was a stellar opportunity for students to interact with each other as well as the CAMP staff before classes even started. The planning for this retreat took a few months but in the end, it really came together. Once the students were settled in their accommodations, we took them through a CAMP Orientation, which details the services CAMP provides, the benefits of being in the program and what is expected of each student. Afterwards, we ate a delicious lunch and headed outside for some leadership development. The students were broken up into groups and guided through various challenge course activities. Some of the activities included: not being able to talk and having to find other ways to communicate to the team, a physical component, intensive teamwork, and of course developing leadership skills. Many students overcame fears and worked together to achieve success.

After a busy afternoon of challenge course activities, we settled down to a nice dinner. We then led the students through a debriefing/reflection in which they shared with us what was particularly challenging about the afternoon’s activities and what they did to triumph over these challenges. The staff took this opportunity to perform skits they had worked hard on titled, “Peer Pressure,” “Good student/Bad student,” and “Recruiting.” These skits were designed to illustrate real college life, as well as demonstrate what role the CAMP Program serves during their first year in college. The students were allowed free time in which they could watch a movie, rest in their rooms, play sports or just talk with others. When it got dark, several staff members took students on a night hike over the river and through the woods. Well, at least through the woods! Aside from a branch that attacked me, it was very fun! The best part of the night was our cozy campfire. We brought enough s’mores to feed an army and ended up with a lot leftover! We just sat by the fire, eating s’mores until it was time to go to bed.

Breakfast was our last meal at Lazy F but we had another activity afterwards. Our students’ mentors were brought out to Lazy F meet their mentees. We then led an activity in which everyone was matched up according to common food pairs/combinations and then played People Bingo where you have to find someone to sign each square if the statement applies to them. Everyone was able to exchange contact information before loading the vans up and taking the mentors home. This signaled the end of our retreat and students went to their rooms to pack and go home. We grabbed a quick snack, loaded up the vans and waved goodbye to Lazy F! We hope to be back next year!
On October 10, 2008 at 9:00 am, I sat on a plane which departed from Seattle and headed toward the Rocky Mountains. My destination was Denver, Colorado, to attend the 22nd Annual HACU Conference. The Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU) was established in 1986 and now represents more than 450 colleges and universities in the United States, Puerto Rico, Latin America, Spain and Portugal supporting Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSI’s).

The conference was held from Friday, October 10th thru Monday October 13th at the Hyatt Regency Denver at Colorado Convention Center, is located in downtown Denver. As a first time participant in the HACU conference, I took advantage of every workshop and opportunity to gain knowledge and network with professionals to bring back ideas and opportunities for our students at Central Washington University.

One of the highlights of the conference was meeting Dr. Antonio Flores, President and CEO of HACU, and him acknowledging that Central Washington University was in attendance for HACU’s annual conference. Another highlight was having the opportunity to explore the Mile High City. I was fortunate and able to walk in downtown Denver without snow on the ground.

Overall, this was a great experience. I would definitely recommend students to attend HACU next year, which will take place in Orlando, Florida. I’m sure the weather will be much warmer and expect a personal welcome from Mickey Mouse.

The 19th Annual Northwest Student Leadership Conference (NWSLC) was held Friday, November 14th through Sunday, November 16th at Portland State University in Portland, OR. I had the opportunity to attend and take four past CAMP students with me. Although the drive was long due to a detour because of the Biggs bridge was closed, the hotel more than made up for it. Hotel Modera, located in the heart of Downtown Portland was definitely the best choice as it was close to the PSU campus and featured some very friendly staff!

The conference kicked off right after we arrived so we headed to PSU to register, get our agendas and meal tickets. The main emphasis of the conference was to provide attendees the tools and necessary for potential leaders to further advance their skills in the area of leadership. There was only one workshop before dinner but everyone found one they wanted to attend. I attended one entitled, “Cultural Awareness (Race, Class and Gender in Higher Ed)” facilitated by the Coordinator of the Multi-Cultural Center at PSU. We participated in a lively discussion, which included small breakout groups. Dinner was mediocre which was surprising since the cost of registration had increased from last year but we are in hard times. The guest speakers featured throughout the weekend included: Lisa Grove, lead strategist for political candidates, nonprofit organizations, corporations and labor unions, Danielle Howard, CWU alumni and currently a graduate student in the Higher Education Leadership Program at the University of Nevada in Las Vegas, Mayor-elect Sam Adams, a vocal advocate for public arts, well-planned transportation systems and economic development, and last but certainly not least, Dr. Lloyd V. Hackley, former university president, dean and chancellor. Each guest speaker had something to offer the conference attendees as they presented their significant personal and political messages. Saturday was an early breakfast and a long day with regards to the amount of workshops, 6 in all. However there was a late night party and networking social that many of the students were looking forward to! Good thing that planned for a later breakfast on Sunday morning.

We departed around noon on Sunday, excited for a short stop at Lloyd’s Center and then straight home to Ellensburg. Although we hit a little fog on the way home, it was a pleasant drive. The students enjoyed themselves and more importantly, learned new leadership strategies and techniques that they will hopefully implement during their time at CWU.

Learning to Lead
BY: Miriam Bocchetti

Hispanic Association College Universities
By: Manuel Rodriguez, CAMP Recruiter

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Fall Quarter Monthly Meetings

Lazy-F Retreat

Northwest Hispanic Student Leadership Conference
Monthly Meetings  
Luz Iniguez, CAMP Retention Counselor

Monthly meetings are a great way to inform students of the different opportunities and resources available at Central. For our October’s monthly meeting, Andrea Easlick from the CWU Wildcat Wellness Center informed students of their health services, location, and hours of operation. The Wildcat Wellness Center staff is devoted to educating the campus community on ways to live a safer and healthier lifestyle. Rhonda McKinney a counselor from the Health and Counseling Center and Alexandria Murano, a Doctoral intern spoke to the CAMP students about the different barriers students face when deciding to seek counseling services. They also informed the students about their location and office hours. Leslie Strawn did a short presentation about ASPEN and the different services and volunteer opportunity they have at their center. 

At our November monthly meeting, Jennifer Estroff from Planned Parenthood did a STD, STI, and health awareness activity with the students. Mal Stewman from the Center for Student Empowerment and Marian Lien from the Diversity Education Center also had the opportunity to share information with the CAMP students regarding their services, location, and hours of operation. We concluded our November monthly meeting by handing our CAMP backpacks to our students which contained a notebook, pen, highlighter and a planner.

During our December monthly meeting Wendy Chiprez, the INROADS campus ambassador for Central, presented about the different internship opportunities that INROADS has available for all CWU students. During this meeting we also had a potluck and a white elephant gift exchange to celebrate the holiday session. We concluded the meeting by handing out the last stipend of the quarter and collecting progress reports.

Dolores Huerta  
By: Manuel Rodriguez

On October 14th, Central Washington University was fortunate and delighted to host Dolores Huerta, co-founder and Secretary-Treasurer of the United Farm Workers of America (UFW). Dolores Huerta was born on April 10, 1930 in a mining town in northern New Mexico. She grew up in Stockton, California, studied education at Delta Community College, obtained a teaching degree, and began teaching elementary school. Seeing students too hungry to learn in her classroom, she shifted her career to become an inspired and respected civil rights and labor activist.

Dolores Huerta’s 50-plus years of experience have consisted of working alongside Cesar Chavez in the 1960’s with the United Farm Workers of America, creating foundations to assist low-income and underrepresented communities, and helping to pass several labor acts.

“Now is the Time for Change – 50 Years of Struggle for the United Farm Workers of America” was the focus of her presentation. Her visit was highly advertised. As a result, students, staff, and parents from school districts throughout Washington State were in attendance. After her inspiring speech, many took the opportunity to meet her in person and take a photo with her on stage.

I was honored to have met Dolores Huerta in person and I know many Central students, staff, and faculty and community members across the state felt privileged to have heard the words of a passionate and hardworking role model.

Northwest Hispanic Student Leadership Conference  
By: Luz Iniguez

I had a great opportunity to take four students to the Northwest Hispanic Student Leadership Conference that took place October 17th - 18th in Boise, Idaho. The students learned some valuable leadership, team building, and networking skills through the various workshops. We had the privilege of hearing Jimmy Cabrera’s inspirational speech. Jimmy travels around the world inspiring millions of teenagers to continue onto higher education and being leaders in their local communities. After the conference concluded, we started our 7 hour journey back home. It was a great Conference!
The national HEP/CAMP conference was held October 20\textsuperscript{th}-22\textsuperscript{nd} in San Juan, Puerto Rico. The national is held every other year and the stream conferences are held during the off years. The HEP/CAMP Programs are divided into three streams: Western, Central and Eastern. (Even though we work at Central, we are in the Western Stream!) I have to say that this had been my favorite conference location thus far. Puerto Rico is an absolutely beautiful place! The locals are friendly, the food is delicious and the shopping is great!

The only bad thing is the travel time from Seattle to San Juan. I left SeaTac at 6:00am and arrived in San Juan around 8:00pm. However, there were several “Washingtonians” on my flight so we were able to share a taxi to our hotel, Condado Plaza. Once we arrived we were greeted by many other conference attendees who had just arrived as well. Weary from travel, many of us just wanted dinner and a comfortable bed. The area we were in was very touristy, fashioned in the tradition of Miami Beach. Nearby buildings were painted in pastel pink and blues and the water was a mere ten feet away from the hotel.

The opening was first thing the next morning and an excellent opportunity for the Office of Migrant Education (OME) to address the group of about 200 people. The main focus of this conference is to inform HEP/CAMP staff about new and updated federal policies, regulations and guidelines. Because we are funded with federal dollars, we are held to a strict standard as set forth by OME. These conferences are a way to ensure that everyone is on track and on the same page with regards to eligibility criteria, managing budgets, supervising staff and overall serving students to highest degree possible, utilizing the most effective methods available. There is also an opportunity for new staff to gain valuable insight as they have the chance to attend a workshop in which seasoned HEP/CAMP staff shared their program’s best practices. Attending the national conference is essential to running an efficient program as program staff will certainly be more knowledgeable about federal processes by the time the conference commences. The Bert Corona Learning Institute hosted a poolside reception for conference attendees and offered an opportunity for staff to network with other programs and staff. The weather was fantastic the entire time except for a small rainstorm one evening.

I definitely hope that the planning committee will look into Puerto Rico as a potential location for future conferences as it really has all the crucial components: Nice weather and good food! I am very lucky that I was able to travel to this amazing destination while learning how to improve our program!
On The Road...

By: Manuel Rodriguez, Recruiter

Fall for me is usually a time where I bond with a white Ford Taurus due to the immense number of hours I spend on the road traveling to high schools, college fairs, and parent and community events throughout Washington State. I speak to hundreds of students and visit dozens of high schools from September to December and nothing is more rewarding than assisting a student with a college application or answering a question about higher education that will facilitate his or her application process.

My visits during the month of September kept me close to Central Washington University. The majority of my visits took place in Yakima County. During this month I also participated in the National Association for College Admission Counseling (NACAC), a college fair that took place at the Convention Center in Seattle. This was a great event. I was one of four CWU representatives and together we spoke to over 1,500 students and parents that wanted to learn more about Central.

October was perhaps the busiest month for me. The greater part of my fall visits take place during this month. I spent a few days in Okanogan County and then made a few more visits in Chelan County. During this month, Central also hosts its Open House. CAMP is very involved with Open House. We need to inform schools of our event, welcome them to Central, and present during our CAMP workshop. Due to our hard work, the CAMP session was completely full.

Bad weather always seems to get in the way of my travel plans during November and December. Therefore, I don’t plan many visits during these two months. I rather contact students from the office and stay away from the snow. However, we haven’t experienced much snow this year. When will it snow?

CAMP Holiday Pecan Pie Recipe

INGREDIENTS

- 1 (9 inch) unbaked pie crust
- 3 eggs, beaten
- 1 cup dark corn syrup
- 1 cup white sugar
- 1/4 cup melted butter
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 cup pecan halves

DIRECTIONS

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C).
2. Beat together the eggs, corn syrup, sugar, butter and vanilla.
3. Arrange pecans in bottom of pie crust and pour mixture over.
4. Bake for 1 hour or until knife inserted 1 inch from edge comes out clean. Allow to cool before slicing.