I am delighted to welcome our largest cohort of students to date, with a total of 62 CAMP students for this year! Although CAMP is only funded to serve 60 students, we really did not want to turn away any of the students who applied to be part of the program. We realize that for many families, this is the first time a child has left home to pursue a degree and we assure you, we are doing all we can to provide services to help them in that process.

CAMP offers a variety of services including financial assistance and intensive academic monitoring support. Students can receive one on one tutoring and mentoring through the program, and have the opportunity to attend conferences and events such as film festivals and leadership retreats.

CAMP is currently in its final year of funding and going to be submitting an application for another five year grant cycle. We remain hopeful during this time but are aware it is a competitive process. We have only 7 CAMP Programs this next year so it will definitely be a close competition. This will not affect any students currently in the program and we wish them all good luck this year!

WELCOME 2010-2011 CAMP STUDENTS
By: Miriam L. Bocchetti, CAMP Director

FALL RECRUITMENT
By: Manuel Rodriguez, Recruiter/Retention Counselor

I can honestly say that this past fall was the best recruiting year in my five years with CAMP at CWU. There are several factors that contributed to making this possible. First, due to the number of years I have recruited, I have established many partnerships and collaborations with students, teachers, counselors, administrators, and community leaders throughout the state. As a result, I received many requests to visit high schools and attend community events to speak on behalf of Central Washington University and the College Assistance Migrant Program.

Since most of the events scheduled for fall were confirmed during the summer, I was able to get a head start on visiting schools, thus concluding my travels just prior to the heavy snow storm hitting the state. I was even able to visit some schools more than once and participate in many more of their events this year.

Another reason that contributed to the success of CAMP’s recruiting efforts this past fall was due to the valuable collaborations and partnerships CAMP has created within the university over the last few years. Recruiters from the Office of Admissions and the STEP Program, both Central graduates and former CAMP students, spoke about the CAMP Program at schools that I was not able to attend. This expanded our outreach area and more students learned about the program than in past years.

I intend to continue working towards creating and strengthening on and off campus partnerships to provide students with the most resources and assistance possible. I look forward to getting back on the road and visiting high schools this upcoming year. I wonder how soon the snow will allow me to get back in my recruiting-mobile.
ATTENDING (AND PLANNING!) OUR HEP/CAMP NATIONAL CONFERENCE

By: Miriam L. Bocchetti

Every year the HEP/CAMP Association and planning committee works together to plan a fabulous national conference. This year I was lucky to serve as a member on the planning committee and really experience firsthand all the hard work involved in making this event happen! This year’s conference was held in Philadelphia on November 17th-19th.

The location of Philadelphia, PA was chosen mostly due to the fact that the Office of Migrant Education (OME) was also holding their annual conference there that same week. The reasoning behind this was that conference attendees could participate in both conferences without having to travel twice and it would also guarantee OME’s presence at our conference.

As part of the planning committee, I had to be there a day early to help with registration and other conference logistics. I arrived Monday, November 15th and took a shuttle to the Sofitel Hotel, a French luxury hotel in Philly’s famous area known as Rittenhouse Square. Tired from the 6 hour flight, I enjoyed a meal with a friend and tried to get some rest! Two other CAMP staff members, Manuel and Luz were scheduled to arrive Tuesday so that we could attend a portion of the OME Conference, being held a few short blocks away at the Sheraton.

The actual conference registration was the next day before the conference started and to get ready for the rush, the planning committee stuffed conference bags with registration material and set up in a room off the lobby downstairs at the Sofitel. It was fun being at the table so I could greet all my HEP/CAMP friends that I don’t get to see every day! Later that evening, the committee was treated to a special dinner at the famous Tony Luke’s, which is said to have the best Philly Cheese steaks in the city! I pretty much had to roll myself back to the hotel, if that’s any indication of how good they were...

Once the conference started, it was kind of a blur! All three CAMP Staff had the opportunity to present at this conference so that involved a lot of preparing and creating powerpoints. Manuel facilitated a panel of Western Stream recruiters entitled: “CAMP Recruiting Best Practices: A Panel Discussion,” in which several veteran recruiters were able to share their experiences of what the role of program recruiter looks like and how they maintain their sanity being on the road so often! Luz presented a workshop titled, “Learning Strategies for CAMP Students Success: College Survival Skills Course Curriculum,” during which we shared the breakdown of the class, how it meets grant objectives and students’ study needs. I was invited to serve on a panel that featured top ten performing CAMP Programs and was able to share with new programs what we considered our strongest retention strategies.

This conference, although hectic, was extremely informative and provided me an opportunity to “get my hands dirty” as a member of the planning committee. I was also asked to serve another year on the committee and am looking forward to it! See you all in Nashville! I am hoping to purchase a pink cowboy hat for the occasion.

CAMP’S UNIVERSITY 101 COURSE

By: Luz Iniguez, Retention Counselor

As one of the instructors for our University 101 class, I really enjoyed working with the group of students in my session. All freshman students at CWU are required to take University 101, the only difference is that the CAMP students have their own separate section. The students were extraordinary and the entire class enjoyed the different guest speakers we had during the quarter. We had representatives from the Center for Excellence in Leadership, Civic Engagement, Mike Luvera from Campus Police, Study Abroad, Career Services, and Kathleen Sheldon from Degree Checkout. Thank you to all the presenters for expanding the CAMP students’ knowledge about the different opportunities that Central has to offer.

The students really enjoyed creating their four-year plan because it provided them with the opportunity to meet with an advisor within their major to have their four-year plan evaluated and confirm that they were on the correct track for graduation. I hope that ultimately the students will utilize what they learned and apply it as best as they can to their studies and eventually overcome all obstacles and achieve academic success at Central.
FALL TRIP (ICE BREAKER)
By: Manuel Rodriguez

It was Saturday, November 6, 2010 when twenty-two CAMP students and two CAMP staff members got on a charter bus and headed west for a memorable adventure in downtown Seattle. Sitting next to people they didn’t know and traveling to a place most students have never been to created a silent and quite long trip over the mountains. The fact that it was 8:00am on a Saturday may have contributed to the sound of the wind over Snoqualmie pass overtaking any slight, yet short conversations occasionally heard.

However, a sudden transformation occurred minutes after arriving at the Seattle Art Museum. Amazed by the breathtaking artwork, dialogue was formed creating friendships and the family away from home feeling that CAMP has grown to be known for. Conversations and bonds were only strengthened the rest of the trip while students got a firsthand look at the famous Pike Place Market and explored Westlake Center for a few hours before the highly anticipated authentic dinner experience.

By dinner time, every student knew everyone’s name, where they graduated from high school, and at least one unique characteristic about each other. Dinner at Benihana Restaurant was the icing on the cake. Eating great food with a group of new friends whose friendships may last a lifetime and having the CAMP Program pay the bill was the ideal Saturday trip.

The bus ride back home was completely different than the morning trip. There was no need for a radio because students were singing, talking, and joking with one another, which made for a pleasant and short trip home.

Feedback obtained from the students after the trip suggested that having this trip at the beginning of the year was a great way for students to become acquainted with each other and feel more comfortable in the program and on campus by knowing more people early on. Students constantly stop by the CAMP office asking when the next trip will be, anxious to meet new people and experience new places. Stay tuned, the next one may be coming soon!
CAMPUS RESOURCES
By: Luz Iniguez

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, Counseling Director, from the Health and Counseling Center spoke to the CAMP students about the different barriers students face when deciding to seek counseling services. Students were informed about their location and office hours. Kristin Karns, Family Nurse Practitioner, spoke to our students about the different services that the Student Medical and Counseling Clinic has to offer all CWU students; he also mentioned the hours of operation. This monthly meeting was very informative and educational; the students learned a lot about the different health and counseling services that are available campus wide for free!

Our November monthly meeting consisted of a Career Panel. We had seven professionals and roughly sixty students in attendance. The career panel was a great success; it consisted of professionals from different areas of the work force sharing their successes and challenges with our students. The students asked the panelists many questions regarding their duties and responsibilities associated with their positions. The panelists did a great job answering all of the students’ questions and providing them with great insight. Students left the panel with a deeper understanding of today’s work force and what it takes to become a successful professional. We concluded our meeting by collecting progress reports and handing out stipends.

During our December monthly meeting Dayana Diaz, past CAMP student, did a presentation on the Student Action with Farmworker internship (SAF) that is available to all CAMP students that have two summers of schooling remaining. She addressed the group about the benefits of participating in the internship. We concluded our December monthly meeting by enjoying a potluck and a white elephant gift exchange to celebrate the holiday season. Happy Holidays!!