On April 29th, Manuel and I traveled to our favorite conference in Phoenix, AZ. The National Association of State Directors of Migrant Education (NASDME) is an annual conference held in the spring that focuses on all subjects relating to Migrant Education. This conference lasts four days and offers many diverse workshops on topics such as immigration, HEP/CAMP Programs, recruitment and retention of Latino/a students, GEAR-UP, college readiness, best practices and more! Many of the workshops are offered in Español as well! Attendees of this conference are quite diverse and include, migrant students and migrant, Migrant school officials and administrators, Higher Ed representatives from various programs, counselors, teachers, etc... It’s a great place to network!

Manuel attended mostly recruiting workshops while I focused on retention and administrative seminars. Both of us really learned a lot and became well informed about evolving policies and procedures within Higher Education. We are both excited to attend NASDME next year in sunny Orlando, FL! Hopefully, Manuel will be tall enough to go on the rides at Disney World this year!

Seattle Underground Tour

By Manuel Rodriguez, CAMP Recruiter

Eighteen students and four staff members, including myself, took a trip to Seattle in May for our annual cultural enrichment CAMP Spring trip. Seventeen Central Washington University CAMP students and one Yakima Valley Community College CAMP student arrived on campus early Saturday morning to jump on the charter bus to make the hour and a half bus ride to Seattle’s Underground Tours in Pioneer Square.

The information provided to us by our engaging tour guides during the hour and a half journey was informative and interesting. There was much to learn about Seattle’s history and it was interesting to see how the city has changed in the last century. Overall, I believe everyone learned something about Seattle they didn’t know before.

Our next adventure took place at the International district. Our students were given the opportunity to enjoy authentic Chinese cuisine. We as a staff decided to eat at the China Gate restaurant where we enjoyed a variety of Chinese cooking. After speaking to the group, we all agreed it had been a good choice for lunch.

We then went to the Chinese market, where we were exposed to many more Chinese goods products.

After our cultural experience, we headed to downtown Seattle’s Westlake Center where we had a couple hours to shop and explore the highly populated neighborhood. Some of us decided to go to Gameworks before shopping, while others just wanted to walk around and familiarize themselves with the area. After our time at Westlake, we were ready to call it a day and head back home. On the way back, everyone was pretty tired. But they all agreed it had been a fun and culturally enriching
National Association of State Directors of Migrant Education

By: Manuel Rodriguez, CAMP Recruiter

The National Association of State Directors of Migrant Education (NASDME) 2007 National Migrant Education Conference was held in Phoenix, Arizona. This was my first time attending this conference and it was a “hot” one. With temperatures between 85 and 95 degrees, it was certainly different than what I’m used to in Washington. But, with sunscreen, pencil, and paper, it turned out to be a very enjoyable and educating experience.

The main purpose of the Migrant Education Conference is to take advantage of the opportunities provided to learn and to network with educators and parents in order to promote, secure, and provide a successful future to students. The conference consisted of many workshop sessions ranging from issues regarding migrant education to how to increase our current CAMP Program’s success. The presenters were very knowledgeable individuals from across the United States with many years of experience in migrant education.

My main purpose in attending this conference was to network with individuals from other CAMP Programs and gain information and ideas that would be beneficial to Central Washington University’s College Assistance Migrant Program. I attended many well-structured, informative sessions such as: Creating a CAMP Recruitment and Academic Plan, A Successful Model to Recruit CAMP Students, and Rising Farmworker Dream Fund: Motivating Migrant Students to be Business Leaders. There were over sixty workshops offered both Monday and Tuesday, from which we could choose three to attend each day.

I know there was a lot of information I did not obtain, but I did bring with me ideas that I know will benefit me and the CAMP program. I brought back new strategies that are successful to other CAMP programs that I know will be useful here and most importantly, I’ve created networks with different programs and individuals across the country. I have already begun to work with Martin Curiel, CEO and founder of the Rising Farmworker Dream Fund. Our goal is to initiate a Migrant MBA Chapter at Central Washington University with the purpose of increasing the number of migrant students attending a top 30 business school.

I really look forward to the challenge of implementing new strategies and creating a stronger CAMP program at Central Washington University. I know the networks I made and the information I gathered will help me succeed. I also look forward to next year’s conference, which by the way, will be held in Orlando, Florida.
Every Wednesday, I travel to Yakima to the YVCC office to work with our YVCC CAMP cohort. This has been a great year for working with our YVCC students. We have monthly meetings just like at CWU. Some of this year’s topics included Resume and Cover Letter Writing Workshop, SSS and Transfer Degree informational Sessions, Scholarship and Internships, FAFSA Renewal Workshop and more. We only had 15 YVCC students this year but always had a good turnout for meetings as these were great students! We also held an End of the Year Banquet for our YVCC students on Wednesday, June 6th. We enjoyed food from El Potro and handed out certificates of completion to the students, as well as their final stipends for the year. We look forward to seeing them at CWU in another year!

On Friday, April 20th, 13 students and I traveled to the Renaissance Hotel Seattle for an all day, almost all female conference titled the Latina Business Series Conference. This conference’s focus was empowering young Latina women interested in pursuing business oriented careers and opportunities. Students had the opportunity to hear first hand accounts from many different speakers about their experiences in the business world. Even men were invited to speak and attend the conference, but the majority of conference attendees were Latina women!

Some of the topics of the conference sessions included: Innovative Resources for Access to Capital, Successful Marketing Strategies for You and Your Business and Protecting Your Investments. The morning consisted of different panels. During the luncheon, the keynote speaker was a very lively Latina, Maria Marin, who spoke about getting what you want by asking for more. She was very inspiring and quite humorous! The students really liked what she had to say about gender inequalities in the workplace.

Many of the students enjoyed this conference as it offered many lessons on how to embark on different business ventures and be a successful in their chosen careers. This conference was both interesting and worthwhile! We hope to take students again next
CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!

CWU End of the Year Banquet

By Miriam Bocchetti
CAMP Director

On Wednesday, May 30th CAMP held our annual end of the year banquet to honor two very special groups of students: those students in the 06-07 cohort who completed their first year of college and also our graduates who have received their 4 year degrees from CWU! We had an outstanding 43 students finish this academic year and 16 students graduate!

This was no small feat for our students as was reflected in the inspirational speeches by CAMP student staff graduates, Juanita Silva and Sophia Lucatero. Both spoke of being hesitant to initially pursue a college education, then slowly gaining confidence and finding their academic niche. All the graduates excelled in their studies and have made their families proud! Most of all, the CAMP family was delighted to watch our largest group of graduates receive diplomas!!