HEP/CAMP Director’s Conference

On February 11th, Mateo Arteaga and I traveled to the annual HEP/CAMP Director’s conference in Washington, DC. The purpose of this conference is to identify and evaluate ways to improve our programs and provide our students the most valuable services possible. We attended workshops focused on report writing, fulfilling grant objectives, implementing internal and external evaluations and more. Although it was cold and windy, we also managed to brave the weather and travel to “the hill” where we met with various state representatives and their staff. Our main goal was to inform people of the benefits of our programs and the positive results we see on a daily basis. Our HEP and CAMP Programs here in Washington State received recognition and our staff was commended for the programming initiatives we strive hard to develop and maintain.

Aside from the ice storm that so conveniently occurred while we were visiting, Washington, D.C. was very informative and beneficial. It was also a blast to attend!

UNIV 102: College Survival Skills

Winter Quarter proved to be another great quarter for our UNIV 102 College Survival Skills course. This year, the students were split into two sections, one was taught by me and the other by our grad assistant, Fabian Partida. Topics covered in the class were: time management, goal setting, improving memory and concentrating, as well as discussions about taking effective text and lecture notes, and how to prepare for taking final exams. This class provides a valuable opportunity for students to develop and enhance various approaches to study skills techniques. Students were also required to create a “Past, Present, Future Presentations, which was my favorite part of the class! Many students were creative and thought-provoking as they explored their cultural past, academic present, as well as their future goals and endeavors.

This class is a requirement of the CAMP Program but is an enjoyable one!
Well, another quarter has commenced and we are in need of a monthly meeting recap! This quarter began with our annual FAFSA renewal workshop, conducted by our kind and generous Education Opportunity Center (EOC) staff members, Joe Howell and Rafael Villalobos. This workshop is a great opportunity for students to renew their 06-07 FAFSA for the 07-08 academic year. This can sometimes be confusing and frustrating process and we feel it is crucial for our students to complete their renewal and an informative and helpful environment. Here are some common tips we like to offer to our students:

*It is okay if your parents have not yet filed their tax returns for this year. You can “guesstimate” using the figures provided last year as a reference point.

*The priority deadline for many school is March 1st but we strongly recommend you completed your FAFSA by the beginning of February, at the latest just in case.

*Make sure to have someone look over your FAFSA just to ensure it is correct and your award letter will not be delayed.

February’s monthly meeting centered around two very amazing internship opportunities. Student Action with Farmworkers (SAF) is a chance for interested students to become advocates for farmworkers and the common plights associated with their work. These students must be willing to become part of the cause and actively participate in various initiatives to promote awareness of this growing population. Advocates must possess bilingual skills as they often communicate with the farmworkers. This internship is located in North Carolina. For more information please contact CAMP Retention Counselor/Recruiter, Manuel Rodriguez who participated in this internship opportunity. He also provided a personal testimony about his experience at this monthly meeting.

Another internship opportunity that was presented at this monthly meeting was regarding INROADS, an internship company focused on placing talented minority youth in business oriented positions with some very prestigious companies. We would like to thank INROADS student liaisons, Wendy Chiprez and Crystal Meeks for taking the time to make a PowerPoint presentation about INROADS. Both Wendy and Crystal were both awarded INROAD internships and continue to spread the word about this great opportunity. Some companies the interns are placed in are: Boeing, Target, PriceWaterhouse Coopers, and Starbucks.

We currently have several CAMP students working their way through the INROADS application process. Good luck! Please contact the CAMP Office for more information about this internship.
**Frida**

I recently had an opportunity to take some of the CAMP students to see the play *Frida*, a performance about the life and struggles of Mexican artist, Frida Kahlo. The play also focused on her tumultuous marriage to fellow painter, Diego Rivera. One focus of the play was Frida’s intense dislike for the American culture and their treatment of her husband’s artwork. While her life was remarkable, her death was sad.

**Latino/a Educational Achievement Project (LEAP) Conference 2007**

This year’s LEAP Conference was a big success. We had 13 students from our program attend. There were a lot of opportunities to learn about the legislature and the different issues that are affecting Latino students in Washington State.

A few of LEAP’s priorities that were discussed included: full-tuition scholarships for future bilingual teachers, provided they teach in the public schools for 4-5 years, professional development to improve cultural understanding and effective teaching practices aimed at diverse student populations, and to seek state funded financial aid for undocumented students. In 2003 HB 1079 was passed, allowing undocumented students to be able to pay in state tuition. If undocumented students become eligible for the state need grant they can receive up to $5,000 a year for a 4-year college or up to $2,000 a year for a 2-year college for qualifying students. These are just some of LEAP’s priorities for 2007.

While at the conference the students had the opportunity to walk on the Hill. They were able to meet their representatives and very important people in the House and ask questions.

The last night they were there the students got to attend the annual banquet and Noche Cultural featuring Dr. Jose Cuellar aka Dr. Loco of Dr. Loco’s Rock ‘in Jalapeno Band. Other participating students also had the opportunity to show off their talents. Then at the end of the night there was a little dance started by the students to show off their moves.

All in all, everyone had a great time. Can’t wait to see what LEAP has planned for next year!!