The 20th Annual Northwest Student Leadership Conference (NWSLC) was held Friday, January 29th through Sunday, January 31st 2010 at Portland State University in Portland, OR. Both Luz and I had the opportunity to attend and take three CAMP students with us. After a long drive to our bordering state, we checked into our corner rooms at the Downtown Hilton within minutes which was nice.

The conference began soon after we arrived and registered. As the delegation leader, I handed out meal tickets to the students. The focus of this conference was to learn about leadership initiatives and bring them back to your campus. Guest speakers included Dr. Preston Pulliams, current President of Portland Community College, Representative Marko Liias and student speaker Lindsay McCluskey. Each speaker delivered a memorable speech but emphasized a similar message: it’s important it is to get involved!

There was time for tax free shopping which of course we took advantage of! Lloyd’s Center was a group favorite! Despite a little light rain, the weather was pretty decent. The conference hosted a NWSLC dance party for only a $3 admission cost and attracted many students who wanted to not only dance but meet other people from various schools.

The conference came to an end around noon on Sunday and we departed for home. With one quick stop at Lloyd’s Center for lunch and some more shopping, we had an easy drive home! We were exhausted but it was worth it! We are looking forward to attending next year’s conference already!
This past February, Meghan Steele and I took six current CAMP students to Tacoma and Olympia for the 10th Annual Latino/a Educational Achievement Project (LEAP) Conference. For the majority of the students, this was the first time they had participated in the conference and were anxious to experience the atmosphere of LEAP. A couple of the students had already attended the conference back in high school and wanted to be a part of it once again. However, this time, they were attending as part of Central Washington University.

We arrived to Hotel Murano a bit before it was time to check in. Therefore, we decided to take a stroll downtown Tacoma while our rooms became available. After a short 30 minute walk, I received a call that our rooms were ready for us. We checked into our rooms, then proceeded to the conference registration table where we obtained our agenda, name tags, and other pertinent information about the conference. The students applied careful thought and creativity into creating their name tags while I went over the agenda for the two days that we were going to be there. Students were also interested in many of the workshops that were available and expressed initiative in attending them.

Overall, the conference offered many opportunities for students to network with college students and encourage high school students to continue their education. Workshops and keynote speakers also added to the value of this experience for all students who attended.

By: Meghan Steele, Graduate Assistant

As the quarter is winding down, I think it is appropriate to reflect on the growth of our students in the College Assistance Migrant Program. Similarly to last quarter, this quarter has been full of activities such as: chapter presentations, group projects, individual work, presenters, and my favorite—the past present and future presentations. Although there is substantial student growth and maturation within the UNIV 102 classroom, study tables has enabled me to work with my students on an individual basis. I have seen the most growth from our students while hosting study tables. This individual time, I believe, has made an incredible difference, not only in individual student writing, but also in student attitudes. I think that sitting together and working on improving an assignment is a beneficial experience not only for the students, but for the mentor as well. It has been my pleasure to teach a University 102 section this quarter and to mentor students at study tables. So as I conclude my thoughts on the quarter, I would like to congratulate our students on another successful class!

Wishing you all a safe and fun filled spring break!
In the summer of 2002, I had the opportunity to participate in a 10-week internship which took place in North Carolina. Student Action with Farmworkers is a non-profit organization that focuses on providing services to the migrant and farmworker community. Such services include legal assistance, information on health and migrant education policy, and assistance with community organizing. By far, this was one of the best experiences I had throughout my years at Central Washington University.

Coming from a migrant and seasonal farmworking background, I wanted to give back to the community by assisting them in any way possible. This internship not only gave me a sense of accomplishment, but also satisfaction as well. In addition to the knowledge I gained working with farmworkers, I also had the opportunity to work with and learn a great deal from other SAF interns with similar backgrounds and life goals.

This past winter, I worked with three CAMP students who also come from the same background and aspire to help migrant farmworkers. I assisted them with the application for the internship and all three students submitted it on time. They are all great candidates with the desire to help and give back. I am positive this experience will not only be good for the students, but SAF will highly benefit from having these students participate in the internship this summer.
Monthly meetings are a great way to get all the students together and inform them about different opportunities that Central and the community has to offer. For our January monthly meeting, Mal Stewman, Assistant Director of the Center for Student Empowerment and Leah Shelton, Assistant Director of the Diversity Education Center presented to our students. They spoke to our students about the different activities and opportunities that these centers have to offer CWU students while also informing the CAMP students of their location and hours of operation. We concluded this monthly meeting by presenting 30 students that received a 3.0 GPA or above for Fall Quarter with a certificate of excellence.

At our February monthly meeting, Rafael Villalobos, Advisor of the Educational Opportunity Center conducted a FAFSA workshop for all the CAMP students to complete their 2010-2011 FAFSA application. This was a very helpful and informative workshop.

During our March monthly meeting, Kara Hoisington from the Scholarship office presented to our students about the different scholarships that Central and the community has to offer CWU students. She also spoke about the different methods for searching for different scholarships using the internet. We also had some student officers from the Migrant Student Organization (MSO) present to the CAMP students about the different activities and programs that the organization is currently planning. We hope that some CAMP students will join the organization and help with the planning of these events. We concluded this monthly meeting by informing the students about some available internships and scholarships that are currently available to them.

Upcoming Events

* SLP Conference: Tuesday, April 6th
* Wildcat Day: Saturday, April 17th
* Spring Trip: Saturday, May 1st
* End of the Year Banquet: Thursday, May 27th