



VALDOSTA STATE UNIVERSITY

# College Assistance Migrant Program (CAMP)

2018-2019



# NEWSLETTER

## Director's Message

The first year of college requires significant sacrifices from our migrant students and families as they both navigate the higher education system. The Valdosta State University (VSU) College Assistance Migrant Program (CAMP) is happy to be part of their support system needed for those students during this challenging time.



As we complete the third year of our five-year grant, I am excited to see how our program has evolved and grown during our short time at VSU. With our program now housed under the College of Education and Human Services (COEHS), and under the supervision of COEHS Dean, Dr. Bernard Oliver (who is a former migrant worker himself), VSU demonstrates not only its commitment to the academic excellence but also brings experience and understanding to the many challenges farm-workers face in their quest to finding and receiving high quality education.

VSU CAMP's success can be measured in many areas. For our current cohort, I'm happy to announce that over 90% of our students completed their first year of college with a cumulative 3.0 GPA and will be returning for their second year. Also, twelve of those students had the opportunity to study abroad in the Czech Republic during the maymester term through CAMP's financial and academic support.

In addition to our current **students**, our CAMP Alumni has also excelled academically as well socially by being extremely active around campus. Many of them are VSU Ambassadors, ASC Tutors, Resident Assistants, CAMP Peer- Mentors, and many others hold various student worker positions.

While our focus is in the success of our students, VSU has also benefited through their support of the program. Since the implementation of CAMP at VSU, the freshman Hispanic/Latinx enrollment and second-year retention have grown by 2.5 percent. Additionally, the overall completion and retention of CAMP students continue to outperform the university's general freshman student population by almost 30 percent. Lastly, many VSU programs and departments embrace our success and have developed many initiatives modeled after CAMP initiatives such as peer-mentoring and academic follow-up, to name a few.

While CAMP is committed to the success of our students, we could not do it alone and we thank everyone who makes our program and student success possible.

Last but not least... gracias a nuestros estudiantes y padres de familia.

Congratulations CAMPers, we are proud of you! Sigantle echando ganas!

**Alma Young**  
CAMP Director (CAMP Alumna 03')

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### CAMP Staff

Pictured (L-R): Elise Ng, CAMP Admin Secretary; Summer Dacheux, CAMP Grad Assistant; Alma Young, CAMP Director; April Salas, CAMP Recruiter; Mauricio Soto, CAMP Academic Advisor.

## CAMP Welcome Week

From August 7th through August 10th of 2018, CAMP hosted a series of events and activities for the incoming CAMP cohort at Valdosta State University. Welcome week for the CAMP program was more than just going over rules and regulations. CAMP staff put together a multitude of events that would help acclimate the freshmen students and help ease the transition that can sometimes be nerve-racking for the students.

The program kicked off the week with an orientation session for CAMP scholarship recipients and their families that took place at the Magnolia room in the University Center at VSU. The purpose of the orientation was to inform both the parents and the students about the expectations the CAMP program had of its participants by going through the CAMP contract. As the families enjoyed a prepared lunch, CAMP Director Alma Young went through the contract and answered questions parents had about the program. Director



CAMP Director Alma Young goes through the CAMP contract with the 2018-2019 CAMP Cohort.



CAMP students participate in a discussion during a group therapy activity.



The CAMP students take a quick group picture with the Georgia Department of Health representatives, Mr. Chastang and Ms. Pollock, after an informative workshop.

Young offered encouraging words to the students and touched on the importance of keeping a good academic standing within the university. The students were encouraged to not take their academics lightly. Instead they were advised to hit the ground running hard. Afterwards, CAMP Recruiter Mauricio Soto touched on financial aid and the verification process of FAFSA. Once the orientation session was over, students and families made their way over to Langdale Hall to officially move in and begin their new adventures as VSU CAMP Blazers.

The remainder of the days before classes began were filled with activities, workshops, and a community service project that would help the new CAMPers get accustomed to life on campus. The students were split into teams on a scavenger hunt assignment in which the students had to take group selfies of certain locations around campus. On August 8th the CAMP students had a busy day full of workshops. Missy Pollock and Percy Chastang, representatives from the GA Department of Health, were invited and gave a lesson on family planning. VSU staff from the e-Learning team held a workshop afterwards to give them insight on VSU's most commonly used tools for students such as BlazeView to help them grow more familiar with the programs. Jessica Pollard from the department of FamilyWorks met with the students to introduce herself and her team as they would be working with the students throughout the year in monthly group therapy sessions. August 9th marked the day on which the rest of the VSU student moved in. The CAMP students volunteered to assist the Department of Housing and Residence Life during move-in day at Langdale Hall. CAMPers were assigned to assist with luggage, direct traffic, and greet families throughout the day. After a long day of serving the VSU community, the students departed to their rooms to rest for the last day of welcome week which would hold their freshman convocation. Shortly afterwards, they would embark on their first day of classes as VSU CAMP students.



CAMP student Chris Hernandez helps an incoming freshman move their stuff into Langdale Hall.

## Departments Across VSU Educate CAMPers

Throughout the year, various departments from Valdosta State University assisted the CAMP program by presenting important information and learning opportunities for the CAMP students. Topics discussed through these workshops ranged from financial aid to academic goal setting to career searching. These workshops aimed to give the CAMP students various resources to aide in their academics, career paths, and personal well-being.

We would like to give a huge thank you to the following departments and personnel for working with the CAMP program for the betterment of our students:

### Career Opportunities

Darius Anthony, *Assistant Director*

Phenix Culbertson, *Employer Relations Coordinator*

### VSU Air Force ROTCs

Capt. Douglas Thomas, *Assistant Professor & Operations Flight Commander*

### Academic Support Center

Dr. Chere Peguesse, *Director of ASC*

Dr. Terence Sullivan, *Assistant Director of ASC*

Ms. Njeri Pringle, *Graduate Assistant*

### Financial Aid

Chad Daugherty, *Associate Director of Financial Aid*

### VSU Library

Catherine Bowers, *Reference Librarian & Coordinator of Library Instruction*

Deborah Davis, *Archives Director*

### FamilyWorks

Jessi Pollard, *Marriage and Family Therapy Intern*



VSU Archivist Deborah Davis explores the various opportunities and resources the students have here within VSU's library, while CAMP Students, Front (L-R): Christian Osornio, Oscar Sanchez, Andy Gutierrez & Back: Karla Rodriquez, Luis Ramiro, Emily Sanchez, and Yucen Umana, eagerly listen.



Assistant Director of Career Opportunities, Mr. Darius Anthony, presents job searching and job skills resources for the CAMP students.



CAMP students engaged and learning how to set academic goals from the graduate assistant of the Academic Support Center Njeri Pringle.



Assistant Director of Financial Aid, Chad Daugherty, is awarded a certificate as a thank you for presenting information on FAFSA and financial aid by CAMP student Oscar Sanchez.



Dr. Terence Sullivan, Assistant Director of the Academic Support Center, gives a workshop to the CAMP students on the ThinkingStorm Tutoring program.



Captain Douglas Thomas stressing the importance of learning, when it's painful, to the CAMP students. His story and perspective helped demonstrate to CAMP students that hard work really can pay off.



CAMPers introduce themselves to VSU President, Dr. Richard Carvajal.

CAMP student David Bautista thanks Dr. Carvajal for sharing his story and spending time with the CAMP group.



## VSU President Hosts Luncheon for CAMP Students

“It is not every day that one gets to have lunch with the president of a university,” CAMP student David Bautista tells the CAMP staff at the end of an excited and thought-provoking luncheon. On Friday, February 22nd, 2019, Dr. Richard A. Carvajal, VSU’s tenth and current president, hosted a luncheon for the CAMP students in the Student Union ballrooms at Valdosta State University.

The afternoon was full of laughter, solemn words, and heartfelt stories from both the VSU president and the CAMP students alike. The luncheon kicked off with a meet and greet as everyone introduced themselves to Dr. Carvajal with names, majors, and interesting facts. Afterwards, the CAMP students helped themselves to a well prepared lunch while Dr. Carvajal offered the students words of wisdom from experience but most importantly from the heart. The eyes of CAMP students lit up as Dr. Carvajal shared his personal story of how he became the person he is today. His moving words fed the fire of inspiration within staff and students—one could say it was that same fire which embodies a Valdosta State University Blazer. The luncheon ended with full bellies and Dr. Carvajal inviting the CAMP students to his office if there were any moments of doubt or thoughts about quitting. The CAMP students were thankful for the opportunity of sharing the moment with Dr. Carvajal and many left the room that day inclined on finishing the semester strong but, more importantly, motivated to cross the graduation stage and obtain their college degree.



## Coolspeak Motivates CAMP Students

Writing at a university level can be a challenge for incoming freshmen, which is why the CAMP program invited Joaquín Zihuatanejo from a youth engagement company called “CoolSpeak.” On Saturday, October 20th, 2018, Mr. Zihuatanejo presented on the importance and art of writing to the CAMP students.

Joaquín Zihuatanejo is a poet, spoken word artist, and award-winning teacher. Born and raised in the barrio of East Dallas, in his work Joaquín strives to capture the duality of Chicano culture. His honest and sometimes brutal work depicts the essence of barrio life—writing about a youth that existed somewhere between the streets of the barrio and the dream wanderings of a boy who found refuge in a world of stories and poems.

CAMP Students (Front L Table) Christian Osornio, (Front R Table) Naiomi Valdez, Rosa Reynoso, Yucen Umana, (Middle Table) Veronica Baustista, and Gema Castillo, write their creative piece while taking the advice of Mr. Zihuatanejo.

During the workshop, Mr. Zihuatanejo used his background experiences to stress the importance of higher-level writing and critical thinking. The students performed various hands-on activities throughout the day to assist with the learning process. CAMPers were asked to perform a creative writing assignment after which volunteers were asked to present their pieces to their peers. Through motivational teaching and encouraging language, Mr. Zihuatanejo left the CAMP students enthusiastic about their upcoming writing assignments in their courses.

## VSU Admissions and CAMP Present at HEP/CAMP Conference

The HEP/CAMP conference is an annual event in which HEP and CAMP programs from across the United States gather to network and collaborate on ideas to further improve the grant programs. This past year the HEP/CAMP conference took place in San Juan, Puerto Rico. On November 6th, 2018, VSU admissions counselor Loanne Liu and CAMP recruiter Mauricio Soto presented at a workshop during the conference titled, “Unleashing your Institution’s Full Potential.” The workshop focused on the benefits of using internal collaboration within the institutional departments to facilitate recruitment and outreach with CAMP programs. Loanne and Mauricio explained the productive dynamics between the Department of Admissions and CAMP recruitment and offered ideas to other programs across the country.



Mr. Soto and Ms. Liu captivate the crowd with their informative presentation on the importance of collaboration.

Families from across Georgia gathered in Jennett Hall to start the day off. An introduction followed by an informative session on financial aid was given.



## VSU Hosts Migrant College Day

On Saturday, October 27th, 2018, Valdosta State University hosted a Migrant College Day for the staff and families who work in seasonal and migrant farm work. The event was a collaboration between VSU Admissions, VSU CAMP, and the Georgia Migrant Education Program. High school students, high school migrant education staff, and parents from across the state of Georgia were treated on that day to various workshops centered around higher education. Topics such as financial aid, college readiness, college application processes, and scholarships were discussed throughout the day in a conference-like setting for the guests. Almost 200 families attended the Migrant College Day event.

Check-in for the students and their families began at 8:30AM in the College of Education and Human Services, where a complimentary breakfast was served. Shortly after, parents and family gathered at Jennett Hall to begin the informational day. Parents and families were welcomed by Region 2 coordinator of the Migrant Education Program, Marisela Trejo, VSU admissions, and VSU CAMP. After a financial aid session, the guests split up to visit workshops given both in English and Spanish from the list on the agenda.



During the resource fair students, parents, and high school staff could be seeing walking around the student union ballrooms visiting the tables to learn about resources of higher education across Georgia.

After the workshops, the families moved to the student union ballrooms where a resource fair was held from partners across the state. Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College CAMP, Wiregrass Technical College, Georgia Military College, and Telamon were among the many programs that were invited to provide information about their respective organizations.

For lunch, College Day participants were invited to eat at VSU's Palm Dining Hall. High school students and families were seen enjoying the university's buffet-style cuisine. The dining hall was full of conversations of experiences throughout the day. After lunch, one final treat was provided to end the day.

CAMP students from VSU's program gathered outside of the dining hall waiting on the guests that wanted to take the opportunity to tour the university campus. The CAMPers volunteered as tour guides to show them around the university as well as provide insight of what it is like to be a college student.

## “CZECH” Out The CAMPers Studying Abroad

One of the many opportunities that CAMP at Valdosta State University provides for their students is the possibility of studying abroad. Every year the program sends a select group of students on a study abroad program in coordination with the Center for International Programs. Ms. Irina McClellan, Assistant Director/Study Abroad Advisor & Exchange Student Coordinator, and her team facilitate the process with our CAMP students.

From May 14th to June 14th, CAMP students visited the Czech Republic to participate in various classes and cultural activities with Dr. Kohn, professor of the Department of Psychology, Counseling, and Family Therapy and coordinator of the study abroad trip. While studying abroad, students are tasks with assignments within the class of their choosing. These assignments are to be completed and submitted at the end of the trip for a grade and the possibility of earning college credit that counts towards their degree. However, the trip is not all work. During their study abroad, students journeyed to various locations across Europe. They visited Germany, Austria, and even took a trip to Auschwitz in Poland. The students immersed themselves in European culture and used the experience in an academic setting to better understand different concepts in psychology.



(Above) CAMP student Evelyn Hernandez participates in a Jewish tradition in Auschwitz. Pebbles brought from the US are placed in the wall to commemorate the victims of the holocaust.

Study abroad participants (L-R, Top to Bottom) Misael Vasquez, Najelly Ocampo, Veronica Bautista, Sugeili Gachuz, Yasmin Guzman, Naiomi Valdez, Evelyn Hernandez, Estefani Quinones, Rosa Reynoso Felipe, and Jesus Garcia pose in front of the Holy Trinity Column in the Czech Republic.

## Dia De Los Muertos

Dia de los Muertos (Day of the Dead), is a Mexican holiday that commemorates friends and family members who have passed away. Mexicans view this day not as a day of sadness but as a day of celebration because their loved ones spiritually awaken and celebrate the day with them.

On November 1st, 2018, the CAMP students, VSU's Latin American Student Association (LASA), and the VSU Spanish Club organized a Dia de los Muertos event in the Magnolia Room of the university for other VSU students, faculty, and staff to attend. The evening was full of activities. Students performed renditions of songs, recited poetry, showcased artwork, and danced traditional dances. A candy skull face painting station was available for participants as well. In honor of the day, an altar designed by the CAMP students was showcased at the university's Art Gallery in the Fine Arts building. The celebration centered around promoting the Mexican heritage and highlighting cultural differences at VSU.



CAMP student Melissa Martinez assists CAMP alum Jessi Salas by painting his face in the traditional sugar skull style.



CAMP Students (L-R) Christian Osornio, Diana Reyes, Graciela Rodriguez-Gonzalez, and Yucen Umana are dressed for the event.

An altar designed by the CAMP students in commemoration of lost loved ones.



Gema Castillo and Karla Rodriguez table in the Student Union of VSU to register blood donors on the VSU campus for the Cesar Chavez Blood Drive.



Veronica Bautista drops off a collection box at the Odum Library on campus for the Long-sleeve t-shirt drive.



CAMP student Evelyn Hernandez focuses on her artwork design for the Bandana Project event.

## Farmworkers Awareness Week

Every year the CAMP program at Valdosta State University participates in National Farmworkers Awareness Week to celebrate the student's backgrounds and to raise awareness on the VSU campus. The week is full of activities, events, and projects put together by the students of the program. Among the activities this year were the Cesar Chavez Blood Drive, the farmworker long-sleeve t-shirt drive, and The Bandana Project. Each one of these events was led by a student of the program which was tasked with coordinating a group of students for each one of the projects. National Farmworkers Awareness Week took place from March 25th-March 31st.

CAMP student Karla Rodriguez took charge of the Cesar Chavez Blood drive this year and helped the American Red Cross collect approximately 48 pints of blood from the VSU campus. Ms. Rodriguez coordinated the event by putting together a group of CAMP student volunteers to advertise for the event and another group to help run the event. Ms. Carrie Blankenbaker, account manager at American Red Cross, was the lead contact for the blood drive event and assisted Ms. Rodriguez.

The long-sleeve t-shirt drive is an annual event hosted during this week to raise awareness of the prolonged hours of sun and pesticide exposure farmworkers endure in their job—the reason why farmworkers wear long-sleeve shirts while harvesting crops. CAMP student Oscar Sanchez worked with the Association of Farmworker Opportunity Programs to bring this event to life. Boxes were decorated by the CAMP students and distributed by Mr. Sanchez and his team to various locations across campus. At the end of the week, the boxes were collected and donated to the Farmworkers Clinic in Lake Park, GA to aid the local farm-working population.

To conclude the week, CAMP student Ana Marquez worked with Justice for Women to bring an activity called, "The Bandana Project" to VSU. The Bandana Project is a public awareness campaign aimed at addressing the issue of workplace sexual violence against farmworker women in the United States. It is an art-activism and advocacy project that serves as a healing tool for women across the U.S., Mexico and other countries. VSU's campus was invited on March 27th to the College of Education and Human Services in order to create the design on the bandanas. Art supplies were provided for attendees. After a short presentation on the significance of the project present by CAMP Director Alma Young, the participants began creating a unique design for their individual bandana. Afterwards, they hung their bandanas for display on a wall in the College of Education for the remainder of the week.

(Facing the students, L-R) The panel of professionals: Gabriela Munoz, Workforce Development Specialist II Telemon; Pedro Escobar, registered nurse at Tift Regional Medical Center; Hector Olguin, manufacturing engineer with Heatcraft; William Hancock, Deputy Sheriff with Tift County Sheriff's Office. (Not in the picture Dr. Ruben Rubio, Economist with the FDA)



## Latino Professionals Give Advice to CAMP Students

"To learn about the material in class is one thing, but to actually hear the work being done from first-hand experience—that speaks volumes." This is what Christian Osornio, CAMP student of the 2018-2019 cohort stated after the professional panel workshop was over.

On April 26th, 2019, CAMP invited five Latinos from different professions to speak to the CAMP group in a Q&A panel-style session hosted by Director Alma Young. In attendance was Pedro Escobar, Emergency Room Registered Nurse at Tift Regional Medical Center and accepted medical student at Mercer University School of Medicine, Gabriela Munoz, Workforce Development Specialist II at Telemon Corporations in Albany, GA, Hector Olguin, Manufacturing Engineer for Heatcraft Worldwide Refrigeration, William Dallas Hancock, Deputy Sheriff with Tift County Sheriff's Office, and Dr. Ruben Jacobo-Rubio, Economist with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Dr. Rubio was unable to be physically present but was present through a conference call.

During the workshop, the guest had to answer a series of prompted questions to give insight on their respective careers of choice. Questions such as "Why did you go to college, what was your motivation?" "In your entire college and professional career, what would you say was the catalyst to get you where you are today?" or "Did you know you were going to be doing this job as a college student?" were among those asked. Aside from sharing similar background in seasonal and migrant farm-work with the CAMP students, the five panelists were either CAMP alumni or had been in a program similar to CAMP which supported their college degree. They offered the students pieces of advice on being successful college students such as things that they would change if they were in the CAMP student's shoes once again. CAMPers engaged with the panelist asking multiple questions on doubts they had concerning their career of interest.



CAMP student Bryan Cruz Rojas takes time to enjoy the stress-free moment right before finals at Dr. Oliver's pool.

## Cookout with Dean Oliver

It was a great day for the CAMP students even with the looming final exams that were awaiting the following week. On May 4th, 2019, Dr. Bernard Oliver, Dean of the College of Education and Human Services, surprised the CAMP students by inviting them over to his house for a pool party and a cookout. This warm invitation to a relaxing weekend was in celebration for the successful year the CAMP students achieved as well as to de-stress for the upcoming finals.

Around 5:00pm that Saturday afternoon, the CAMP students began showing up to the door steps of the Oliver family household not knowing what to expect. On the door was a small hand written sign with a smiley face and two simple words-- "Come In." That was the beginning of the very generous hospitality that was given that evening.

Mrs. Oliver was awaiting with a smile in the kitchen urging the students to make themselves at homes. The rest of the afternoon was full of fun and laughter. The students had the opportunity to hang out one last time before they departed for the summer. Pools games were played as Dr. Oliver fired up the grill and began cooking some of his delicious



The students enjoy their last event together before the end of the semester, courtesy of the Oliver family.

ribs and chicken. There were snacks and drink provided. When time to eat came around, the students ushered inside. There they were greeted with a table full of food courtesy of Dr. Oliver and his wife. Rosa Felipe was heard saying, "Wow, this is incredibly kind of them to do something like this for us."

The students were left with an unforgettable memory. With bellies full that night, the students left recharged and ready to take on their finals and finish the semester strong.



(L-R) CAMP Director Alma Young; professor of philosophy and religious studies, Dr. Lavonna Lovern; CAMP student, Misael Vasquez; CAMP student, Estefani Quinones; CAMP alumni Eleticia Rodriguez-Gonzalez, and professor of History, Dr. Charles T. Johnson



CAMP students (L-R) Estefani Quinones, Misael Vasquez, and Eleticia Rodriguez-Gonzalez present their research at the annual symposium.

## CAMPers Present at the Undergraduate Research Symposium

Every year the Undergraduate Research Council of Valdosta State University invites students to showcase their research, scholarship, and creative activities to the VSU community at the Undergraduate Research Symposium. The symposium provides students with an opportunity to share research papers, laboratory experiments, field projects, creative performances, visual art works, or independent study projects. This year three CAMP students decided to take the opportunity to present their research at the symposium.

Misael Vasquez, Eleticia Rodriguez-Gonzalez, and Estefani Quinones were the CAMP students that took the stage on Wednesday, April 17th, 2019. The three students worked as a group to present a research project titled, "How CAMP is Enhancing Its Students' Success by Providing Academic and Social Assistance." In this project, the students explained the impact the College Assistance Migrant Program has on seasonal and migrant farm working students. It highlighted the issues farm-working students face such as the educational gaps created due to the constant switching of school systems, and it provided insight on how the CAMP program solves these issues through the academic and social assistance that it provides. The research was based on first-hand experiences that each of the students had as well as additional research acquired through interviewing faculty, staff, and peers of the program.

## NMSI Offers Internship Opportunities to VSU CAMP

The National Migrant Scholars Internship Initiative (NMSI) is a program that originated at Michigan State University. The purpose of NMSI is to encourage and support CAMP students in finding experiential learning opportunities that will help prepare them for future careers through three main components: financial support, experiential learning, and professional development.

The CAMP program at VSU invited NMSI to present to the cohort through a webinar on November 26th, 2018. The presenters were Yazmin Gomez, administrative assistant, and Sam Valdez, associate director. Ms. Gomez and Ms. Valdez informed the students on the different ways they could utilize NMSI to their advantage. NMSI would help the CAMP students in various ways such as connecting them with and internship opportunity and even covering financial costs such as travel and pay among many other things. Students looking for an internship opportunity were encouraged to apply to the NMSI program.



NMSI presents internship opportunities to the CAMP group through a webinar.

## Dean's List Recipients

Students who achieved a semester GPA of 3.50 or higher on nine or more semester credit hours with an institutional GPA of 3.00 or higher were recognized by being placed on the Dean's List.

### Fall 2018



(L-R): Veronica Bautista, Evelyn Hernandez, Jesus Garcia, Najelly Ocampo, Estefani Quinones

### Spring 2019



Sugeili Gachuz



Jesus Garcia



Yasmin Guzman



Estefani Quinones



Rosa Reynoso Felipe



Diana Reyes



Discovery Rojo



Oscar Sanchez



Naiomi Valdez

# CAMP End of Year Banquet

The CAMP Program held their annual banquet on Thursday, April 13th, 2019 at the James H. Rainwater Conference Center in Valdosta, GA. The event was a celebration of completion by CAMP participants on their first year of college and the program.

The banquet began with a welcome statement by Mrs. Alma Young, Director of the CAMP Program and was followed by an invocation from student, Discovery Rojo. As the students and family enjoyed lunch, the CAMP students presented their class superlative awards in which the cohort picked and voted on their classmates. After some fun, laughter, and delicious food, Mrs. Alma Young introduced the guest speaker, Mr. Jose Israel Cortez, the Director of the Migrant Education Program for the state of Georgia. Mr. Cortez delivered his key note speech and stressed the importance of the roles migrant families and students played. He urged the students to continue their education to better the living conditions of their families and the community. He pointed out that the students of the CAMP program are the future for migrant workers all across America.

Afterwards, Mrs. Alma Young called for the presentation of awards and certificates of completion. One of the CAMP program's most prestigious award known as the Outstanding CAMP student award was awarded to CAMP student Misael Vasquez. This award is presented to a student who excelled academically, participated in all CAMP activities and program requirements, and went above-and-beyond to positively represent CAMP. Along with the certificate, the student is presented with a scholarship for the following year. This scholarship is a generous donation from VSU President Richard Carvajal and family. As the awards presentation was coming to an end, CAMP student Evelyn Hernandez had an additional award to present. This award was a surprise gift to Director Alma Young for the hard work and dedication Mrs. Young had for the CAMP cohort. The gift was a handmade painting of a dragon guarding her eggs symbolizing the Director taking care of the students. Within the scales of the dragon were the thumbprints of the CAMP student cohort of 2018-2019.

Following this emotional moment, CAMP pins were given to each student that completed the program. Director Young asked the parents or closest relative to place the pin on the students. The pin ceremony signaled the completion of the CAMP program. Final remarks were given by Mrs. Alma Young. The event was attended by approximately 120 students, parents, VSU staff and guests.



CAMP Director Alma Young receives her gift at the CAMP banquet.



Director of the Georgia Department of Migrant Education, Israel Cortez, gives his key note speech to students and family of the CAMP program.

# CAMP End of Year Banquet Awards



## Academic Improvement Award Gema Castillo

The Academic Improvement Award recognizes students who have shown significant improvement in their academic performance.



## Community Service Award Evelyn Hernandez

The Community Service Award recognizes students whose service has resulted in a positive impact to CAMP, VSU, and/or the Valdosta community. The recipient demonstrated commitment to improve the lives of others as well as equity and inclusion.



## Distinguished CAMP Scholar Award Evelyn Hernandez and Estefani Quinones

The Distinguished CAMP Scholar Award recognizes students with the highest GPA in CAMP.



## Outstanding CAMP Student Award Misael Vasquez

The Outstanding CAMP Student Award is presented to a student who excelled academically, participated in all CAMP activities and program requirements, and went above-and-beyond to positively represent CAMP.



## Promise Award Yasmin Guzman

The Promise Award recognizes students who have demonstrated academic achievement, community involvement, and shows promise for an outstanding career in their chosen field of study.

## ACADEMIC AWARDS

### Academic Excellence

GPA 3.50 and Above

- Sugeili Gachuz
- Jesus Garcia
- Yasmin Guzman
- Evelyn Hernandez
- Estefani Quinones
- Rosa Reynoso Felipe
- Misael Vasquez

### Academic Achievement

GPA 3.00 to 3.49

- Veronica Bautista
- Chris Hernandez
- Ana Marquez
- Melissa Martinez
- Najelly Ocampo
- Luis Ramiro Palomares
- Diana Reyes
- Karla Rodriguez
- Discovery Rojo
- Oscar Sanchez
- Naiomi Valdez
- Bryan Cruz Rojas



Mother of Naiomi Valdez places a CAMP alumni pin on her, signaling the end of a successful year with the CAMP program.

## From CAMPers to VSU Employees



### **Alexxa Abraham – Valdosta State University Ambassador**

Alexxa Abraham is a current VSU sophomore who participated in the CAMP Cohort of 2017-2018. Alexxa is from Pahokee, Florida and is a proud alumni of Pahokee High School. She is currently pursuing a Bachelor's of Science in Education with a focus on Middle Grades Education. She will be serving as a VSU Ambassador for the upcoming academic year of 2019-2020. Alexxa plans on continuing her education in hopes of one day becoming a teacher to give back to her community.

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### **Daniela Reyes – Valdosta State University Resident Assistant**

Daniela Reyes was a CAMP participant of the 2017-2018 CAMP cohort. Daniela is a current VSU junior from Moultrie, Georgia and is a proud alumna of Colquitt County High School. She will be serving as a VSU resident assistant for the upcoming academic year of 2019-2020 and will be helping students in VSU's dorms with their housing needs as well as enforcing policies. She is currently pursuing a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration with a focus on International Business. Daniela's future goals are getting accepted into law school and obtaining a law degree.

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### **Jessi Salas – Valdosta State University Ambassador and Writing Tutor**

Jessi Salas is a CAMP alum and participant of the 2017-2018 CAMP cohort. Jessi is a current VSU junior from Barney, Georgia and is a proud graduate of Brooks County High School. In the upcoming academic year of 2019-2020, Jessi will be assisting the admissions office as a university ambassador as well as helping the Academic Support Center as a writing tutor for VSU students. He is currently pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Psychology and a minor in Sociology and Anthropology. Jessi plans to one day counsel others dealing with clinical mental illnesses.

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### **Karen Ramirez Rubio – Valdosta State University Ambassador**

Karen Ramirez Rubio is a VSU Senior from Moultrie, Georgia and is a proud alumna of Colquitt County High School. She was a participant of the 2017-2018 CAMP cohort. Karen will be a VSU ambassador for the 2019-2020 academic year and looks forward to a successful year working with the admissions team. Other roles that Karen has taken during her time at VSU are being a CAMP mentor, being a tutor for the Academic Support Center, and being a volunteer for various organization in the community. She is currently pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Psychology in order to help her community back at home. Her dreams are to become a counselor in family therapy.

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### **Laura Ramirez – Valdosta State University Math Tutor**

Laura is a VSU Senior from Moultrie, Georgia. She graduated from Colquitt County High School and attended VSU through the CAMP program in the academic year of 2016-2017. During her time at VSU, Laura has served as a CAMP mentor, a math tutor, and a LASA executive board member. In the upcoming year of 2019-2020, Laura will continue working for the Academic Support Center as a math tutor. She is currently pursuing a Bachelor of Arts in Mathematics with a concentration in secondary education in hopes of one day becoming a high school math teacher back home.

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### **Misael Vasquez – Valdosta State University Standardized Patient**

Misael Vasquez is a graduate from Colquitt County High School in Moultrie, Georgia. He is currently a sophomore at VSU and a participant of the CAMP program in the academic year of 2018-2019. Misael landed a job with the university as a standardized patient through the collaboration of the theatre department and the nursing department at VSU. As a standardized patient, Misael is given a script to act as a patient with a given health condition to help the nursing students experience a simulated setting. Among other roles, Misael is the parliamentarian for the Latin American Student Association (LASA) for the upcoming year. He is currently pursuing a Bachelor of Fine Arts in theatre arts with a concentration in performance. Misael's aspiration is to be a successful actor in the near future.

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### **Magnolia Rodriguez Mendoza – Valdosta State University Ambassador**

Magnolia is a VSU Senior from Moultrie, Georgia. She graduated from Colquitt County High School and attended VSU through the CAMP program in the academic year of 2016-2017. Throughout her years at VSU Magnolia has served several positions around campus such as a math and science tutor, CAMP mentor, and LASA executive member. In the upcoming year of 2019-2020, Magnolia will serve as the president for the LASA organization on campus. Additionally, she will also be a VSU ambassador for the 2019-2020 academic year. She is currently pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Biology. Her path is a long one but Maggie's future lies inside the medical field. She strives to one day become a physician.



Pictured (L-R): Luis Ramiro Palomares, Yucen Umana, Emily Sanchez, Evelyn Hernandez, Oscar Sanchez, Rosa Reynoso Felipe, Sugeili Gachuz, Jesus Garcia, Karla Rodriguez, Misael Vasquez, Najelly Ocampo, Yaritzi Flores, Bryan Cruz Rojas, David Bautista, Chris Hernandez, Melissa Contreras, Christian Osornio, Rafael Hernandez, Ana Marquez, Discovery Rojo, Estefani Quinones, Yasmin Guzman, Gema Castillo, Naomi Valdez, Veronica Bautista, Diana Reyes, Melissa Martinez, Andy Gutierrez, Graciela Rodriguez-Gonzalez.

# 25 CAMP students

who are passionate and dedicated to achieve their dreams of a college education.

The **College Assistance Migrant Program (CAMP)** at Valdosta State University (VSU) is federally funded through the U.S Department of Education, Office of Migrant Education for a 5-year grant period. The CAMP Program was established to assist migrant and seasonal farm workers, or their dependents, through their first year of college. CAMP will support these students by providing intensive academic, social, and financial support to help them succeed during their first year at VSU and continue with their postsecondary education.

## CAMP SERVICES

### Financial Assistance

CAMP will provide supplemental financial aid to cover costs during the first year at VSU. These include:

- Tuition & Fees
- Book Loan Assistance
- Housing
- Health Services
- Meal Plan
- Students will receive a modest stipend

### CAMP Academic Support

The CAMP program is here not only to assist you financially but to provide any resource that might be needed in order to achieve success here at VSU. CAMP will assist the students academically and provide emotional support through services such as:

- Academic Counseling & Follow-Up
- Tutoring
- Learning Communities
- Research Opportunities
- Course Selection & Registration Assistance
- Skill Development Workshops
- Study Abroad Information
- Social & Cultural Events



### Contact Information

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 WEB [www.valdosta.edu/academics/camp](http://www.valdosta.edu/academics/camp)  
 PHYSICAL ADDRESS Education Center  
 2nd Floor—Suite 2141  
 301 Baytree Road  
 MAILING ADDRESS 1500 N. Patterson St. | Valdosta, GA 31698

### For any questions regarding migrant eligibility contact:

#### April Salas, CAMP Recruiter

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