



California High School Equivalency Programs *2023*

The National HEP/CAMP Association
Hepcampassociation.org

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California High School Equivalency Programs

2022-2023 Directory



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THE NATIONAL HEP/CAMP ASSOCIATION



The National HEP/CAMP Association is a nonprofit membership organization comprised of over 100 High School Equivalency Programs (HEP) and College Assistance Migrant Programs (CAMP) situated in IHEs (Institutes of Higher Education) throughout the United States and Puerto Rico. The National HEP/CAMP Association's priorities are to increase the educational opportunities to the family members of migrant and seasonal agricultural workers. The Association's membership provides dropout recovery and placement in postsecondary education or employment to over 7,000 participants each year through the HEP programs. CAMP provides economic and financial support and other non-financial support services to first year college freshmen, most of whom are the first in their families to seek a college degree. The Association provides scholarships and sponsors summer

internships for college students from farmworker families. The Association also provides professional development for its members, ensuring the effectiveness of HEPs and CAMPs.

According to 2019-2020 CAMP data presented by the U.S. Office of Migrant Education (OME)*:

- **83.8% of all CAMP** participants successfully completed their first year at an IHE (24 credits earned and in good academic standing).
- **95.6% of all students that successfully completed CAMP** (24 credits earned and in good academic standing) were enrolled in an IHE the following year.

According to 2019-2020 HEP data presented by the U.S. Office of Migrant Education (OME) *:

- **60.5% of HEP students** who completed their course of study earned a high school equivalency diploma (HSED) or its equivalent.
- **75.5% of HEP students** that earned their GED or its equivalent enrolled in an Institution of Higher Education (IHE), improved their job status or enrolled in the military.

*US Department of Education Report to Congress: <https://oese.ed.gov/files/2023/01/2022-Report-to-Congress-HEP-CAMP-.pdf>

***For more information on the National HEP/CAMP Association
please visit our website www.hepcampassociation.org or contact:***

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California

High School Equivalency

Program profiles

2023



Enterprise Migrant HEP

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PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Cambridge Academies' **Enterprise Migrant Project** serves farm-working families at **multiple rural sites** in two of California's Central Valley Counties: **San Joaquin and Stanislaus**. These counties have very limited transportation linking these outlying rural areas with larger cities so a great percentage of farm workers live in isolated pockets throughout both counties. The COVID-19 pandemic gave us an opportunity to pivot our program toward a hybrid online and site-based approach which has helped families not only receive high school education services but also has served as a way for students to learn how to use modern technology tools resulting in expanded employment opportunities. Currently all of our classes, except for onboarding sessions and social events, are conducted online.

The Zoom environment is our virtual classroom that students quickly embrace. Participants are helped with funding for Internet connectivity and with the procurement of Chrome Books. Staff delivers study packets to their homes when students can not attend the on-site overview classes and coaches them one-on-one until they learned to download and upload their work. Their computer skills have gone from 0 to 100 very fast, which has allowed them to upgrade employment and participate in college online ESL classes.

Results: Our **students:** 1. LOVE the online environment, especially being able to participate in their Zoom scheduled classes and also reviewing the material by signing on to observe classes held at different times; 2. Developed technology skills which will help them in their next steps; 3. Like learning at home while watching their kids; and 4. 100% of our graduates ned up for ESL online classes as soon as they passed their last GED exam.

PROGRAM COLLABORATIONS

Partnerships and collaborations are vital to the Enterprise Migrant Project. We are grateful for the support given by regional Internet providers by offering discounted rates and for local businesses that have so graciously allowed some of our students to use their internet access to participate in classes when internet service at their homes was not available. We are also thankful for employers such as Amazon, that support our graduates by giving them training and an opportunity to join their company as well as grateful for agricultural employers who value our students' efforts and upgrade their employment status.

2022-2023 DATA

STUDENTS SERVED	54
GPRA 1	91%
GPRA 2	100%

2022-2023 DATA

STUDENTS SERVED	54
GPRA 1 STATISTICS	
MALE STUDENTS	18
FEMALE STUDENTS	36
GRADUATION RATE	91%

GPRA 2 DATA

UPGRADED EMPLOYMENT, COLLEGE ESL CLASSES, CERTIFICATIONS OR CAREER TRACK	100%
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CENTRAL VALLEY OPPORTUNITY CENTER High School Equivalency Program

HEP PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Federal funds from the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Migrant Education were given to Central Valley Opportunity Center to promote High School Equivalency Program (HEP) to the community. The goal is to provide migrants, seasonal farmworkers and their family members with a unique and exciting opportunity to obtain a high school equivalency certificate. HEP is a 16-week GED program offered in English and Spanish. The participants will receive individualized instruction within a structured GED curriculum as well as career, academic, life skills and personal counseling. The program also assists participants with their individualized educational/employment goals such as entering a postsecondary education, military service, or to be placed in a career development program. The program is offered in California within the counties of Merced, Modesto, and Madera.

STUDENTS SERVED 2021-2022

97

DEMOGRAPHICS

Male	Female
27	70
English	Spanish
8	89
Under 21	21 & Over
2	95
GRAPA 1 (70%)	GRAPA 2 (80%)
31	
Postsecondary Education	Upgraded Employment
6	23

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HEP PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Currently funded from 2019 through 2024
- Provide education services since 2009
- Establish partnership with Migrant education program in Region 3
- Extensive outreach and recruitment in Modesto, Turlock, Ceres, Atwater, Livingston, Merced, Madera, Chowchilla, Los Banos and other small rural towns around the larger cities in Central California.
- Academic Counseling and planning for placement
- Student services to eliminate barriers to success such as: materials/supplies, transportation and child care.

Monserat Mendez Aguilar



Graduated HEP in 2020; She is now part of our HEP staff as of 2022.



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No. of Students Funded to Serve	Annual Award
80 Students	\$471,950

STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS	
FEMALE	MALE
74%	26%

GPRA ¹ 1—HSE NATIONAL ATTAINMENT TARGET 69%	
Performance Year	Bakersfield-HEP Success Rate
2021-2022	85%
2020-2021	73%

GPRA 2—POST HSE NATIONAL PLACEMENT TARGET 80%	
Performance Year	Bakersfield-HEP Success Rate
2021-2022	90%
2020-2021	90%

¹The Government Performance Act (GPRA) enacted by Congress to provide for the establishment of strategic planning and performance measurement in the Federal Government. These outcomes are reported annually to the USDE, Office of Migrant Education.



PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Operating since 2010, the High School Equivalency Program (HEP) at **California State University, Bakersfield (CSUB)** is one of fifty HEP Programs federally funded through a competitive grant process by the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Migrant Education.

HEP is an educational equity program designed to assist seasonal agricultural workers and members of their immediate family to complete their high school equivalency and, subsequently, obtain improved employment, begin post-secondary studies or enroll in a vocational training program.

Bakersfield-HEP is one of 13 HEP Programs in the State of California and the only project providing these specialized services in the Southern San Joaquin Valley. **Bakersfield-HEP** is on its third funding cycle through 2025. In addition, **Bakersfield-HEP** has exceeded or met the national performance targets for most fiscal years.

BAKERSFIELD— HEP STUDENT HIGHLIGHTS

- HEP Graduates have earned four-year degrees from CSU Bakersfield.
- HEP Graduates are currently enrolled at Taft and Bakersfield College.
- HEP Graduates are currently enrolled in NO-FEE trainings such as: Barber School, Welding, Auto/Diesel Mechanic, and Bookkeeping.
- HEP Graduates are currently working in salaried, full-time, non-agricultural jobs with medical benefits, and increased pay.

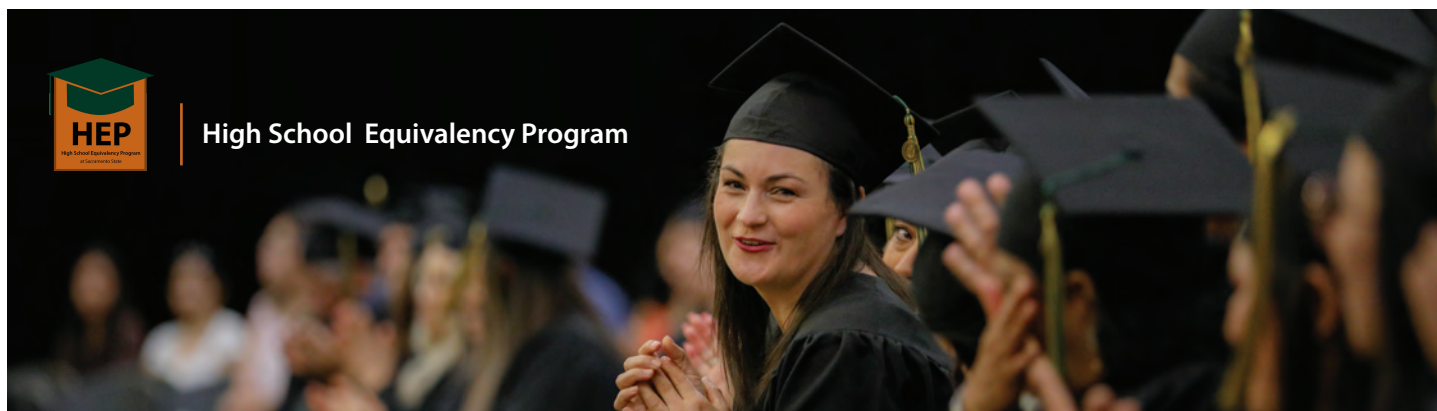
KERN COUNTY COLLABORATION

- Bakersfield-HEP has established an ongoing collaboration and partnership with State HEP Projects, Five County Regional Migrant Education Programs, K-12 School District Schools, Local Community Colleges, Adult Schools, America's Job Center, WESTEC, Employment Staffing Agencies, and Kern County Collaborative Partnerships.

California State University, Sacramento



High School Equivalency Program



Locations

Yuba City

Woodland

Lodi

Courtland

Stockton

Demographics

Female 72%

Male 28%

Spanish 98.60%

English 1.40%

GPRA1-HSE

National Attainment Target 69%

2021-2022 93%

2019-2020 100%

2018-2019 106%

2017-2018 91%

GPRA2- Post HSE

National Attainment Target 80%

2021-2022 95%

2019-2020 86%

2018-2019 95%

2017-2018 92%

1 The Government Performance Act (G PRA) enacted by Congress to provide for the establishment of strategic planning and performance measurement in the Federal Government.

Program Overview

The Sacramento State High School Equivalency Program (HEP) is one of the fifty federal funded programs nationwide designed to assist migrant or seasonal agricultural workers 18 years of age or older currently not enrolled in school obtain the equivalent of a high school diploma. HEP also helps students prepare to move on to higher levels of education or training and into more stable and better paid form of employment.

Program Highlights

- Provide access to high school equivalency (HSE) completion to out of school migrant and seasonal farmworker youth and their family.
- Assist high school equivalency (HSE) completes move on to higher levels of educations, training and/or into more stable and better paid employment.
- Promote a family-like environment that allow students to affirm their own cultural identity, enrich academic and professional growth, and build networks that will support their advancement.

Partners

- College Assistance Migrant Program (CAMP)
- Dreamer Resource Center (DRC)
- Woodland Community College
- Migrant Education, Region 2
- Yuba Community College
- Parent Institute for Quality Education
- El Concilio, Stockton, CA
- California Human Development, Lodi, CA
- Consulado Mexicano, Sacramento, CA
- Migrant Education, Region 23



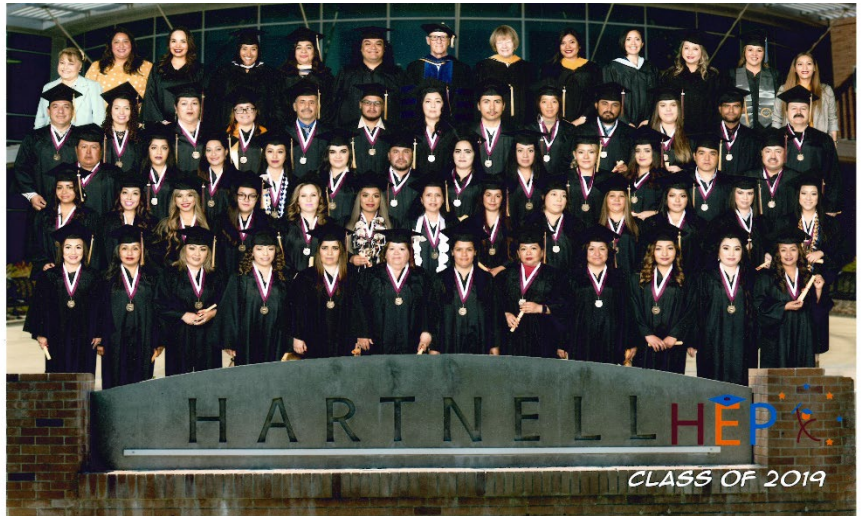
SACRAMENTO STATE
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Hartnell Community College High School Equivalency Program



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2021-2022

GPRA 1 HSE Graduation	GPRA 2 Placement
58 Students	48 Students
79.45%	82.76%

Students Served

125

DEMOGRAPHICS

Male	Female
25%	75%
English	Spanish
21%	79%
Morning	Evening
18%	82%
Under21	21 and Over
10%	90%

Hartnell's High School Equivalency Program is made possible by a US Department of Education grant to Hartnell College in Salinas, California (Monterey County). Hartnell College received one five-year grant (2006-2011), were renewed for a second grant (2011-2016), a third grant (2016-2021) and are currently operating under our 4 grant award (2021-2026).

Hartnell's High School **services and activities** support the achievement of our program's objectives and measurable outcomes. Services include

- Extensive outreach and recruitment in the Salinas Valley
- Screening for eligibility criteria, and assessment of reading comprehension and mathematical skills
- Multiple Instructional modalities and locations
- Academic counseling and planning for placement
- Student services to eliminate barriers to success such as: materials/supplies, transportation passes, health education and screenings

Hartnell HEP has **established partnerships** that support the success of our students. Current partnerships include:

- Local area Adult Schools (Salinas, Gonzales, Soledad, Greenfield)
- Monterey County Office of Education-Migrant Education Region 16, and alternative education programs
- Office of Employment and Training (CET)
- CSU Monterey Bay
- Hartnell College Student Programs and Services including: Mi CASA Dreamers' Center, Student Success Department and others
- Topete Scholarship Foundation
- Loaves, Fishes and Computers



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 Program Manager
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No. of students funded to serve

75 students

**GPRA 1: NATIONAL HSE
 ATTAINMENT TARGET 69%**

Performance Year	MC HEP Success Rate
2021-2022	71%
2020-2021	41%

**GPRA 2: POST HSE NATIONAL
 PLACEMENT TARGET 80%**

Performance Year	MC HEP Success Rate
2021-2022	96%
2020-2021	96%
2018-2019	92%
2017-2018	80%
2016-2017	84%

Mendocino-Lake Community College High School Equivalency Program



PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Mendocino College HEP Program is made possible by a *US Department of Education - Migrant Education Office*. Mendocino College HEP serves Mendocino and Lake Counties which are in rural areas in Northern California.

The High School Equivalency Program (HEP) helps migratory and seasonal farmworkers (and their immediate family members) to obtain the equivalent of a high school diploma and, subsequently, to gain improved employment, begin postsecondary education or training.

Mendocino College HEP was refunded in 2020 and this program is in year three of this new cycle.

Mendocino College HEP SERVICES

Project activities employed to achieve the measurable objectives includes outreach and recruitment, orientation, counseling, diagnostic screening and assessment, academic instruction, books and curricular materials, geographically balanced instructional locations, student services (financial aid, etc.), academic workshops, tutoring program, testing fees, childcare, transportation, field trips, health and vision care, enrollment, career and job placement support.

MC HEP PARTNERS

We partner with local adult schools and high schools, as well as with Santa Rosa Migrant Education Office - Region 2 as well as HEP programs, Mendocino-Lake Adult & Career Education, Mendocino College ESL Department, Ukiah Adult School, California Human Development, Santa Rosa Catholic Charities-Immigration Department, Vecinos en Accion (UVA), North Coast Opportunities, Inc., Agricultural Associations, Family Resource Centers, Mendocino Community Health Clinic, Inc., Healthy Mendocino, Mexican Consulate in San Francisco, Jim Wood Assemblyman office, KZYX Community Radio, local businesses and Mendocino College student services and programs.



Martha Anaya
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No. of Students Funded to Serve	Annual Award
130 Students	442,176

PERFORMANCE DATA FOR 2017-2022 SER-HEP

GPRA 1: GRADUATION Goal 69%	
2021-2022	100%
2020-2021	77%
2019-2020	80%
2018-2019	88%
2017-2018	84%

GPRA 2: PLACEMENT GOAL 80%	
2021-2022	90%
2020-2021	81%
2019-2020	81%
2018-2019	91%
2017-2018	94%

Data taken from Annual Performance Reports submitted to the U. S. Department of Education



SER-Jobs for Progress, Inc., San Diego High School Equivalency Program



PROGRAM OVERVIEW

SER- HEP is one of 45 federal High School Equivalency Programs funded through competitive grants from the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Migrant Education. The goal of HEP is to assist migrant or seasonal agricultural workers (and their immediate family members) to obtain a high school equivalency certificate and subsequently, gain improved employment, begin post-secondary studies or enlist in the military.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- SER-HEP provides these services in Imperial County
- Our program has been continuously funded to provide educational services to farmworkers throughout the State of California since 2015.
- SER-HEP provides services up to 130 students each year.
- Providing encouragement to pursue post-secondary education with campus visits and cultural events annually.

SER-HEP COLLABORATIONS

- Region VI Migrant Education
- K-12 School District Schools
- Community Colleges: Imperial Valley College
- Adult Schools: 7 Imperial County Adult Schools
- Imperial County Adult Education Consortium
- Imperial County Workforce & Development Office
- Imperial Valley Housing Authority
- Imperial County Social Services





SER-Jobs for Progress, Inc., San Joaquin Valley High School Equivalency Program

Adriana Chavez
HEP Coordinator
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No. of Students Funded to Serve	Annual Award
145 Students	\$441,358



GPRA ¹ 1—HSE NATIONAL ATTAINMENT TARGET 69%	
Performance Year	SER-Fresno HEP Success Rate
2021-2022	79%
2020-2021	81%
2019-2020	70%
2018-2019	82%
2017-2018	82%

GPRA 2—POST HSE NATIONAL PLACEMENT TARGET 80%	
Performance Year	SER-Fresno HEP Success Rate
2021-2022	86%
2020-2021	89%
2019-2020	98%
2018-2019	90%
2017-2018	92%

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

SER- HEP is one of 45 federal High School Equivalency Programs funded through competitive grants from the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Migrant Education. The goal of HEP is to assist migrant or seasonal agricultural workers (and their immediate family members) to obtain a high school equivalency certificate and subsequently, gain improved employment, begin post-secondary studies or enlist in the military.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- SER-HEP provides these services in Fresno and Madera Counties
- Our program has been continuously funded to provide educational services to farmworkers throughout the State of California since 1999.
- SER-HEP provides services up to 145 students each year.
- Providing encouragement to pursue post-secondary education with campus visits and cultural events yearly.

SER-HEP COLLABORATIONS

- Region IV Migrant Education
- K-12 School District Schools
- Community Colleges: Reedley College & Fresno City College
- Adult Schools: Madera & Porterville Adult School
- Fresno and Madera Workforce Connection
- Fresno Housing Authority

¹The Government Performance Act (GPRA) enacted by Congress to provide for the establishment of strategic planning and performance measurement in the Federal Government.



Veronica Dominguez

HEP Director

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No. of Students Funded to Serve	Annual Award
100 Students	\$461,203

PERFORMANCE DATA FOR 2016-2022 SER-HEP

GPRA 1: GRADUATION	
2021-2022	73%
2020-2021	70%
2019-2020	85%
2018-2019	77%
2017-2018	63%
2016-2017	34%

GPRA 2: PLACEMENT	
2021-2022	100%
2020-2021	92%
2019-2020	94%
2018-2019	100%
2017-2018	100%
2016-2017	100%



SER-Jobs for Progress, Inc., Santa Barbara High School Equivalency Program



PROGRAM OVERVIEW

SER- HEP is one of 50 federal High School Equivalency Programs funded through competitive grants from the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Migrant Education. The goal of HEP is to assist migrant or seasonal agricultural workers (and their immediate family members) to obtain a high school equivalency certificate and subsequently, gain improved employment, begin post-secondary studies or enlist in the military.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- SER-HEP provides these services in Santa Maria, Lompoc, and Guadalupe
- Our program collaborates with professionals to offer various workshops monthly : professional development, mental health, emotional wellness, building job confidence.
- SER-HEP provides quarterly Cultural events
- Provides quarterly College tours for students post-secondary

SER-HEP COLLABORATIONS

- Migrant Program Region XVIII & XXII
- K-12 School District Schools
- Community Colleges: Cuesta College and Allan Hancock College
- Santa Barbara Housing Authorities
- Social Services
- National Farmworker Jobs Program

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Santa Rosa Junior College Program Overview

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The mission of Santa Rosa Junior College (SRJC) HEP is to assist agricultural workers/seasonal (and immediate family members) in the Sonoma and Napa counties to obtain a High School Equivalency Certificate and subsequently, gain improved employment, begin post-secondary studies or enlist in military services.

Over 300 students have graduated from this program since inception in 2012, 80% have matriculated into vocational and credit bearing pathways. SRJCHEP has become an integral part of the community, building on partnerships and creating opportunities for farm working families to improve their quality of life through education.

Program Highlights

- 2nd Grant cycle, funded through 2022
- Weekly morning, evening , and online classes
- Academic tutoring, transportation, and supplies
- Referral to social service agencies in the community
- STEM Literacy and Career focus
- STEAM Family Night (STEAM + Art)
- Academic Counseling
- Career Exploration Workshops
- Mental Health Workshops
- **Online & in person instructional programing, using Open Educational Resources (OER)**

PERFORMANCE DATA 2021-2022

Female	79%
Male	21%
Under 21 yrs.	21%
Over 21 yrs.	79%
GPRA 1	58%
GPRA 2	95%

STUDENTS SERVED IN 2021-22

105

LOCATIONS

Santa Rosa
Healdsburg
Cloverdale
Sonoma
Napa

Partners

- Migrant Education Program, Region 2
- North Bay Jobs With Justice
- Napa Valley Adult Education
- Sonoma County Adult Education
- Corazon Healdsburg Resource Center
- Literacyworks
- Santa Rosa Junior College



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Cecilio Mora

HEP Director

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PERFORMANCE DATA 2020-2021

STUDENTS SERVED

85

GPRA1

79%

GPRA2

89%

HEP CLASSES LOCATIONS

Coalinga

Huron

Lemoore

Firebaugh

Mendota

Online

West Hills Community College District (WHCCD) has a rich history of serving the educational needs of the west side of the San Joaquin Valley for 89 years. The district serves nearly 10,000 students annually and covers 3,464 square miles with colleges in Lemoore and Coalinga and an education center in Firebaugh. The WHCCD High School Equivalency Program (HEP) is a five-year grant operating from 2021 – 2025. The program is funded to serve 85 commuter students from migrant or seasonal farm worker background annually with a budget of \$464,000.

WHCCD HEP is committed to assisting the completion of High School Equivalency (HSE) through academic and support services that address students' educational, career, personal, health, and financial needs. HEP provides placement services in universities, colleges, vocational institutions, military services, and other post-secondary activities or career advancement.

Additionally, WHCCD offers financial assistance, career readiness workshops, and cultural and educational leadership activities. The goal of the program is to empower students with the necessary academic/life skills to complete their HSE and exceed Obj. 1 and 2 National Targets: GPRA1 and GPRA2 performance requirements.

WHCCD HEP has established partnerships that support the success of our students including:

- Fresno, and Kings County Migrant Education Programs
- WHCCD California Adult Education Consortium Members
- Aria Community Health Care Centers
- United Health Centers
- West Hills College Coalinga and Lemoore student services programs: CalWORKs, SSS, National Farmworker Job Program, EOPS, and DSPS
- California State University, Fresno
- WHCCD Skills Valley

California

High School Equivalency

Highlighted Stories

2023

CAMBRIDGE ACADEMIES

ENTERPRISE MIGRANT HEP PROGRAM Success Story

Jenny Gutierrez



Jenny Gutiérrez is a 33-year-old mother of two young children and a HEP graduate currently working at Amazon and living in Santa Nella, California. Her father came to this country from Tabasco, Mexico to work in agriculture and provide a better future for his family. For 15 years, Jenny had worked multiple agricultural jobs in and around the Central Valley, but was not able to progress without a high school equivalency certificate (HSE).

In 2018, Jenny started and quit the HEP program after taking her first exam without even finding out her score. She remembers feeling frustrated and disappointed because she lacked enough personal time for school and confidence to complete the high school program. In the summer of 2021, her sister Sehydi, completed her high school equivalency in our HEP program and was able to quit working in the fields and get a better job. Her sister's accomplishments motivated Jenny to return to our program for a second time in the Fall of 2022. This time, our online Zoom classes allowed her to learn from home at a time that aligned with her work schedule and her children's school times. When she was not able to sign on to class, she learned the material through our assigned YouTube videos, online resources, and homework.

While taking HSE classes, she developed the courage to apply for a job at Amazon and to her surprise, she was hired! Her new job required her to maintain a demanding 10-hour night shift assignment, to commute two hours a day, and still care for her family and study for her HEP classes. In spite of these challenges, Jenny completed her entire high school equivalency certificate program in the span of four months!

After attaining her HSE, Jenny enrolled in an employee program at Amazon where she is currently attending classes to get a commercial Class A driver's license. She looks forward to receiving higher pay and family benefits and hopes that one day she can attend college to become a nurse.

Jenny is a strong female role model who has demonstrated invincible perseverance, and an admirable capacity to raise a family, advance in her education goals, improve her job prospects and achieve the American dream that her parents had sought and worked hard for when moving to this country.

We are proud of Jenny and of many others in our HEP program whose lives have been transformed by pursuing educational goals and a better future for their families.

Vivian Mejia-Cardenas

Since 1988, my mom has been working in the fields of Stockton, CA and continued to migrate from Mexico to the US on a yearly basis. I remember when I was 4 years old, I didn't understand the sacrifices my mom was making by leaving us for about six to eight months, she would migrate to the US and return to Mexico. In 2018, my father joined my



mother in coming to California to work in agriculture. They have experienced seasons that defeat them with long working hours. Even though farm working was challenging, they wanted to give my family a better life and more opportunities. They both work packing cherries, apples, pears, and other fruits. They find pride in being farm workers and know that it is a job that many are not able to do but as they aged it is becoming more difficult.

In 2019, I joined my parents in Stockton, CA and later, with the help and encouragement of my parents, found a program to help me get my high school equivalency. After a few weeks of searching for a program, we found the Sacramento State, High School Equivalency Program. Because of my parents' farm working background, we all qualified for the program and signed up. By June, my mother, father and I all graduated, and it was one of my proudest memories. However, later that year my mother was diagnosed with stage IV lymphoma, bringing her priorities to her health instead of her education. My dad had to work more to provide for our family and my mom could focus on getting better.

My parents' encouragement of getting an education was like planting a seed that would grow immensely within me. I've been doing my best in school because I enjoy it and I felt like I owe it to them to work hard as they do in the fields. Financially, my family is struggling, and community college is the best option for me. Last fall, I enrolled at San Joaquin Delta College with the goal of transferring to a four-year university. Going to community college gives me the opportunity to save money especially now that my mom is not working. Both semesters, I enrolled in the maximum units allowed for a pre-medical major.

In the beginning, I wasn't convinced about pursuing a degree in the medical field, mainly because it is expensive and time consuming. However, I was reminded of my hard-working parents and my mom's health issues; that inspire me to continue in the health field. It won't be a smooth journey, but with determination, effort, and support from this scholarship, it can be possible. I know I belong on the graduation stage of the four-year university of my dreams. On that day, I hope to look out into the crowd to see my parents cheer me on as they call my name, Vivian Mejia-Cardenas.

Achieving the Dream

Hartnell Community College, High School Equivalency

Gabriela Zavala Gaytán has now lived in the United States for over 16 years. Gabriela immigrated to help her parents have a better life in Mexico and so that they could finally have a house of their own. Gabriela had always had the dream to attend a university; however, upon moving to California, that goal seemed impossible. Gabriela found it difficult to move to a different county where she did not know anyone to help her navigate her new home. She also found it challenging to communicate with others since she did not speak English. She tried to learn as much English as she could at work and



whenever possible attended a community center to learn more. By 2018, she learned that she could enroll in college classes without the need of a social security number. She enrolled in classes, but had to drop out due to work and having to take care of her daughters. Her husband and her had a difficult time making ends meet. However, in 2021, she lost her job and her mother encouraged her to go back to school, and Gabriela decided to give school another try. 2022 was an excellent year for Gabriela. She found the Hartnell College HEP Program and she was able to earn her High School Equivalency in only four weeks. She continued her credit classes at Hartnell College, and was able to earn a certificate in Business Information Worker Level 1. That same year she was able to obtain a job permit. On August 16, on her mother's birthday, Gabriela made her promise that she (Gabriela) would continue studying to get a degree that would represent all the effort to thank her for all the efforts her mother made to give her values to achieve her goals. However, Gabriela's mother passed away on December 31, 2022 and would not be able to see Gabriela on the stand and receive that long-awaited diploma. Gabriela says, "I know that from heaven she will be happy with my achievements and she will continue to bless all the people who have helped me achieve it. Because she always told me that God puts angels disguised as people to help us achieve our dreams and goals. So, I have to achieve my mother's dream of seeing me walk on the stage and receive that diploma."

Delia Ramírez

Delia Ramírez graduated from the Mendocino College HEP Program in 2018. She enrolled in Mendocino College classes after she graduated from the HEP program. She lives in Fort Bragg, CA, a rural area on the Mendocino County Coast with limited resources and opportunities for students like Delia.

Mrs. Ramirez got a job opportunity to work as a bilingual assistant at the Fort Bragg Unified School District in 2018. The COVID pandemic hit and she was transferred to the FBUSD Food Service Department, where she is responsible for receiving the products and delivering food to the different schools in the district.

“The Mendocino College HEP Program not only helped me get my High School Equivalency Certificate, but it also opened doors for me to continue taking college classes and then receive my Associate Degree in Liberal Arts and Science with an emphasis in Education. My next step is transferring to Sonoma State University and getting my teaching credential. I never imagined attaining all these goals. Thank you to Mendocino College HEP Program for the support and the opportunity to continue with my education”.





Rocio Jasso/ Security Guard/Post-Secondary Student:

Buenas noches a todos los presentes,

Mi nombre es Rocío Mendoza, soy alumna del programa SER JOBS FOR PROGRESS INC. en donde completé mi equivalencia de preparatoria. Hoy viernes 7 de octubre del año en curso, es muy grato para mi celebrar con todos ustedes la graduación de cursos de las generaciones 2020, 2021 y 2022. Quiero compartirles mi gran experiencia en este grandioso programa de SER Jobs.

Mi experiencia comenzó hace algunos años ya. Al inicio, me parecía imposible graduarme, ya que había tenido varios intentos fallidos que parecían interminables obstáculos ante mi meta. Debido a tantos sucesos desagradables y dolorosos que tuve que enfrentar durante mi tiempo de estudiante en SER, como un divorcio, vivir en un shelter y lejos de mis hijos durante meses, pasar por una pandemia y el fallecimiento de mi único y amado hermano, mi graduación parecía muy lejana. Sin embargo, hoy estoy aquí, ¡lo he logrado!

Esto ha sido posible gracias a todos los miembros de este gran programa, porque gracias a su constancia, empeño, pasión, lealtad y más que nada porque creyeron en nosotros, en mí., para que podamos estar aquí, en este memorable día. No tengo ni la más mínima duda de que el programa SER ha sido la mejor motivación que tuve para dar mi primer paso hacia el camino del aprendizaje y superación personal.

Actualmente, en el programa de entrenamiento para el trabajo NFJP de SER me apoyaron a obtener mi certificación como guardia de seguridad y también me motivaron para continuar mis estudios e inscribirme en Imperial Valley College, donde hoy tengo una nueva meta que lograr. Es así que, los invito a que continúen por este camino. A los que aún no han empezado, que lo hagan, nunca es tarde para hacerlo. A los que empiezan, los que van a la mitad, no deserten, nunca se termina de aprender. Espero que, así como hoy, tengamos la dicha de volvernos a encontrar y tengamos más momentos memorables como este.

Quiero agradecer inmensamente a mis hijos, que a pesar de ser niños se han comportado con mucha madurez durante nuestras adversidades y me han permitido demostrarles con el ejemplo, que todos podemos salir adelante. A mi madre, por ser la mejor del mundo, y que soy su vivo ejemplo; a mis amistades que siempre están alentando y haciéndome creer la mejor persona del mundo, ¡-definitivamente- no pude tener mejores amigas!

Por último, quiero agradecer la oportunidad que se me ha otorgado. Es un honor poder compartir mi experiencia con todos ustedes y demostrar que, con constancia, perseverancia, apoyo y esfuerzo, si podemos salir adelante.

¡¡Muchas felicidades a todos mis compañeros graduados, lo logramos!!

¡Muchas gracias por su atención!





Rocio Jasso/ Security Guard/Post-Secondary Student:

Good evening,

My name is Rocío Mendoza, I am a student of the SER JOBS FOR PROGRESS INC. program. where I completed my high school equivalency. Today, Friday, October 7, 2022 it is a pleasure for me to celebrate with all of you the graduation of the 2020, 2021 and 2022 generations. I want to share my great experience in this great SER Jobs program.

My experience started a few years ago. At the beginning, it seemed impossible to me to graduate, since I had had several failed attempts that seemed like endless obstacles before my goal. Due to so many unpleasant and painful events that I had to face during my time as a student at SER, such as a divorce, living in a shelter and away from my children for months, going through a pandemic and the death of my only and beloved brother, my graduation seemed so far away. However, today I am here, I have achieved it!

This has been possible thanks to all the members of this great program, because thanks to their perseverance, commitment, passion, loyalty and above all because they believed in us, in me, so that we can be here on this memorable day. I have not the slightest doubt that the SER program has been the best motivation I had to take my first step towards learning and self-improvement.

Currently, in the SER NFJP job training program they supported me to obtain my security guard certification and also motivated me to continue my studies and enroll in Imperial Valley College, where today I have a new goal to achieve. Thus, I invite you to continue on this path. To those who haven't started yet, do it, it's never too late to do it. To those who start, those who go halfway, do not drop out, you never finish learning. I hope that, just like today, we have the joy of meeting again and have more memorable moments like this.

I want to thank my children immensely, who despite being children have behaved with great maturity during our adversities and have allowed me to show them by example that we can all get ahead. To my mother, for being the best in the world, and for being her living example; To my friends who are always encouraging me and making me believe I'm the best person in the world, - definitely- I couldn't have better friends!

Finally, I want to thank you for the opportunity that has been given to me. It is an honor to be able to share my experience with all of you and show that, with perseverance, perseverance, support and effort, we can get ahead.

Congratulations to all my fellow graduates, we made it!! Thank you very much for your attention!



Student Spotlight



Angelica Ramon Zurita, Class of 2019, currently at CSU Sonoma, major, Sociology

. “I did not believe that I could accomplish my goals, because of how expensive it is to get an education. I am grateful to have met the HEP family and that I was able to achieve my educational goals with the support of this amazing program HEP.”



Angelica Ramon Zurita received her HSE in 2019. Originally from Oaxaca, Mexico she came to the USA with her husband ten years ago looking for a better life and future. She began taking English non-credit classes and received her ESL certificate in 2013 and continued taking classes at Santa Rosa Junior College. At that time, her goal was to get a Pharmacy Technician Certificate, however, her study plan was tragically interrupted 8 years ago when a terrible accident killed her husband. She was 5 weeks pregnant at the time.

When her child was one year old, she connected with a community partner, Via Esperanza Family Resource Center, where she received parent education courses, child development classes, and motivational support. Angelica began taking GED prep and English conversation classes, but could not continue due to lack of financial resources and inability to pay for her exams, her goal once again came to a halt. Seeing her struggles and perseverance, she was referred to SRJC HEP and qualified through her families work pruning, suckering and picking grapes. Angelica enrolled back in classes, and two months later she received her HSE.

She was awarded the Literacy Works scholarship, helping her continue on to finish her ESL credit classes and also completing her transfer credits with an AA in Sociology in 2021. She she is currently pursuing a BA in Sociology at Sonoma State University, with plans to pursue a MA in social work. Angelica recognizes that it takes hard work to accomplish her goals and is willing to put in the time and effort.

“I did not believe that I could accomplish my goals, because of how expensive it is to get an education. I am grateful to have met the HEP family and that I was able to achieve my educational goals with the support of this amazing program HEP. Thank you for paying for my exams, school fees, books, transportation and child care. My baby and I needed this support to overcome the barriers that had impeded me to accomplish my goals of getting a better job, better income, and provide a better future for my family. Thank you so much for your support, I am eternally grateful.” - Angelica Ramon Zurita and Samiel Castillo

Student Success stories

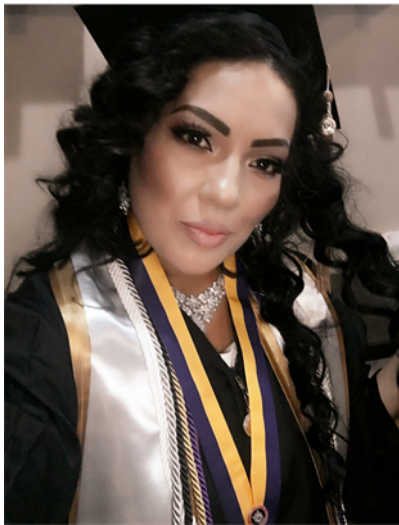
My name is Nathaniel Tig Christopher Paredes, I am originally from Tijuana Baja California. I had the opportunity to enroll in high school in Kerman, but I couldn't finish due to financial reasons and I ended up working in the fields.

I enrolled in the HEP program in January 2023. In March I finally graduated with my high school equivalency diploma. It was difficult for me to move forward in my education not having a diploma, but now I am finally able to move forward thanks to HEP and my instructor. I enrolled at Fresno City College to get my electrician certificate.



Mirna Aguilar, a Central American native of Guatemala, graduated from California's High School Equivalency Program and acquired her General Education (GED) in Kerman, California in 2014. Now a former graduate of DeVry University, with a Bachelor's in Science of Business Administration Management in Human Resources as of June 2017. She graduated from DeVry University with honors in academics, a Delta Mu Delta (International Honor Society in Business), and a National Society of Leadership and Success student, as well as a member of the California Central Valley Chapter Project Management Institute (PMI). She served in Project Management Summit 2017 as a Hospitality Coordinator Assistant, including a prestigious greeter.

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WEST HILLS COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY PROGRAM



Iliana Patricia Ramirez Fernandez - I will graduate from West Hill College Coalinga in Spring 2023. My major is in business administration. In December 2018, I enrolled in the High School Equivalency Program and obtained my HSE Diploma in August 2019. I was laid off from a local hotel during the pandemic. However, that helped me decide in 2021 to enroll at West Hills College Coalinga. Furthermore, while I was a full-time college student, I started working for the HEP program under work study. For the past two years, I worked in the HEP office and proctored the HSE exams for students. This last year my role changed, and I started working as a tutor in the Spanish HEP class. It fulfills me with great satisfaction that I can pay it forward and help adult Spanish-speaking students. I will not say that this journey has been easy; however, it has not been an impediment to me to continue learning. The language barrier has not been easy either since I speak mostly in Spanish. Learning the English language has been challenging but has not prevented me from continuing my education. My goal is to continue my college education and transfer to a university now that I have my business administration AS degree. One of my career goals is to work in an office setting.



Jose Miguel Parra- I enrolled in the High School Equivalency Program at West Hills College Lemoore in November 2021. What I love about the WHCCD HEP program is that it is designed for working adults, and they consider the students' needs. Having evening classes worked well for me because the classes were flexible. The teachers are very patient with students, considering that most are working parents with other responsibilities. The challenges we have to face are many, including work, many times, we are tired, but the effort is worth it when you have the High School Equivalency Diploma in your hands. Once you complete the program, you forget all the difficulties you had to go through to be in class every day. My message to HEP students is not to give up; all your hard work is worth it. I have been working in my current job for 19 years, and the HSE Diploma has prepared me for future opportunities. The HEP Director and the Academic Advisors are very attentive to the needs of the students and provide informational workshops to motivate students to continue with their educational dream.



Narciso Lopez- In March 2022, I enrolled in the High School Equivalency Program and obtained my HSE Diploma in December 2022. I am enrolled in the WHC National Farmworker Job Program and attending the WHCCD Skills Valley Truck Driving Training. My goal is to complete the training by June 2023 and start my career as a truck driver. I am very grateful to my Advisor, Olivia Vega, instructor Jessica Torres, and everyone in the HEP program. Without their support, I would not have made it. They provided information and support throughout my participation in the HEP program. I did not believe I had any educational options as I was undocumented while participating in the HEP program. They encouraged me to stay in the class and

informed me that the HSE will help me in many ways, not only to get a better job but also with my immigration legalization process. I received my visa and looking forward to starting my new career. These educational opportunities will assist me in getting a better job for my family, who supported me through my education journey.



WEST HILLS
COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT



HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY PROGRAM

High School Equivalency Program (HEP)



I want to talk about a program that changed my life. Its name is HEP at CVOC. This program made an immense change because it made my dream come true, from attending college on to transferring to a university and then being able to graduate. That dream would not have been possible without Ms. Bobadilla's help. She was the one who saw potential in me and my dream of being able to continue with my studies. In Mexico, I did not finish elementary school because of financial situations. I had no education to begin with when I made the commitment to attain my GED in the program. Thus, it was not easy; I had to start from zero.

It was difficult and almost impossible, but thanks to the experience and skills my teacher had, mainly the love she has for what she does, it was easier than I thought. She gave me the idea of studying psychology because she liked my skills at helping people analyze their lives and listen to their problems. Therefore, HEP at CVOC is not just a program; it is my present and my future in every aspect because it did not only make my dream of becoming a psychologist come true. CVOC also gave me the opportunity to get my Class "A" driver's license, so I could work to better my family and myself.

Dora Olivares - Madera HEP 16 Student

I was born on May 24, 1967. In a small community called "El Pueblito". Being the youngest members of the Hernandez Larrondo family; dad John, mom Lupita, and eight siblings, six women and two men. I attended elementary school right there in "El Pueblito". My school was called "Niños Héroes". I was a member of the honor escort on Mondays and public holidays. Like September 16th, Independence Day; November 20th, the day of the Battle of Puebla; February 24th, Flag Day; and other holidays. When I finished elementary school, I was enrolled in middle school, which was far from where I lived. However, that didn't stop me from attending. It was the most beautiful three years of my early youth.

During middle school, I had the privilege of being a member of the honor escort of the municipal presidency, in which we led the civic events and the municipal parades. Later, I continued to high school, which was even more withdrawn but still created no obstacle for my attendance. Since it was remotely far, I had to walk for about an hour and forty minutes.

In my 20s, I came to the United States of America, a fact that changed my life. My first obstacle was arriving in a country that does not speak the same language as mine. Followed by culture, traditions, and the struggle to survive as an immigrant. I worked as a salesperson house-to-house, in the flea market as a fruit seller, and in agriculture. Agriculture was the biggest activity I worked on as an immigrant. Then a company that was just starting hired me. This happened in 1996; I worked there for almost 24 years as a supervisor. In 1997, my only son was born. He was my greatest motivation to continue the daily struggle. In February 2021, I had surgery on my left shoulder. A fact that changed my life.

Now I find myself in this institution called CVOC, trying to achieve my dreams like most migrants. We wish for an opportunity to progress. I completed cooking training in July 2022 and obtained my high school equivalency certificate in January 2023. Currently, I am employed at CVOC as a cook—the start of a better life.



Maria Hernandez - Winton HEP21 Student

Central Valley Opportunity Center
6838 Bridget Ct. Winton, CA 95388 (209) 357-0062



Children of agricultural workers face tremendous obstacles in completing high school and pursuing higher education. These students move frequently and these frequent disruptions contribute to a high rate of drop-outs and a low rate of college attendance. For nearly 50 years, the **High School Equivalency Program (HEP)** and the **College Assistance Migrant Program (CAMP)** have enabled children of agricultural workers to pursue higher levels of education and secure jobs that allow them to become successful and contributing members of American society.

HEP helps students obtain a High School Equivalency Diploma/Credential (HSED) and, subsequently, begin postsecondary education, enter military service, or obtain employment. HEP grantees provide intensive instruction and support to students who have not completed high school.

CAMP assists students in successfully completing their first academic year of college and continuing at a postsecondary education institution. CAMP grantees provide academic support, stipends, and other support services necessary to ensure that students succeed in college.

The HEP/CAMP programs are authorized under section 418(A) of the *Higher Education Act* and administered by the United States Department of Education's Office of Migrant Education (OME). Currently, there are over 100 HEP/CAMP projects throughout the country. The U.S. Department of Education awards *competitive* five-year grants to Institutions of Higher Education (IHEs) or private non-profit organizations that work in cooperation with IHEs. Congress recognized the importance of HEP/CAMP programs when it increased the program's authorization level to \$75 million in the *Higher Education Opportunity Act of 2008 (HEOA)*.

- **HEP/CAMP PROGRAMS ARE PROVEN EFFECTIVE AND ACCOUNTABLE:** The High School Equivalency (HSE) passage rates for HEP students are substantially higher than those of other HSE preparation programs, and retention rates for first year students served by the CAMP program are significantly higher than those of most IHEs. During the 2016-2017 project year, **67.5%** of HEP students who completed their course of study earned a HSE or its equivalent. In 2016-2017, **88.2%** of all CAMP participants successfully completed their first year at an IHE (24 credits and in good academic standing) and **96.6%** continued on to their second year in college.
- **HEP/CAMP PROGRAMS ARE UNIQUE AND NOT DUPLICATIVE:** HEP/CAMP programs are the *only* federal programs that help the children of agricultural workers – a unique population of students that face tremendous obstacles – obtain their HSED and pursue higher education.
- **DEMAND FOR HEP/CAMP PROGRAMS:** In grant competitions, the U.S. Department of Education received many more HEP/CAMP grant applications from across the country than available funding. For example, during a recent competition, CAMP received 33 applications and 18 projects were funded and 16 were not. HEP received 29 applications and 16 were funded and 13 were not funded.
- **GOOD FOR THE ECONOMY AND RURAL COMMUNITIES:** HEP/CAMP projects help students get better jobs and therefore contribute more to the tax base in their community. The HEP/CAMP grant awards to IHEs and non-profit organizations bring jobs and spur economic activity in the local communities where grants are awarded, especially in rural areas where many of these programs are located.

The National HEP/CAMP Association is a nonprofit membership organization comprised of High School Equivalency Programs (HEP) and College Assistance Migrant Programs (CAMP) located throughout the United States. For more information, please see our website <http://www.hepcampassociation.org/>



APPROPRIATIONS HISTORY

Federal Funding History (in millions)	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2022 & 2023 President's Budget Proposal	FY 2023 House Labor HHS Subcommittee
HEP/CAMP	\$46.6	\$48.1	\$66.1	\$58.1

“The CAMP program has allowed the calluses in my hands to heal and my mind to grow.”

*Concepción has blossomed from a shy college freshman into an outgoing engineer. After interning at the Texas Department of Transportation for two summers, Concepción received job offers from nine different corporations in the United States, Canada, and Mexico, all eager to bring her on board after her graduation. **Concepción Mendoza, Civil Engineering Technology, New Mexico State University CAMP***

*For more information, please contact **Irene Bueno**, Washington Representative (202) 540-1070
ibueno@nvglc.com*

<u>College Assistance Migrant Programs</u>	<u>High School Equivalency Program</u>
ARIZONA	ARIZONA
Arizona State University	Portable Practice Education Prep
Yuma/La Paz Counties Community College	CALIFORNIA
CALIFORNIA	California State University, Bakersfield
California State University, Bakersfield	California State, Sacramento – University Enterprises Inc
California State University, Fresno Foundation	Cambridge Academies Inc
California State University, Monterey Bay	Central Valley Opportunity Center, Inc
California State University, San Marcos Corporation	Hartnell Community College District
California State, Sacramento - University Enterprises, Inc.	Mendocino-Lake Community College
Mendocino Lake Community College	SER Jobs for Progress Inc. San Joaquin Valley
Rancho Santiago Community College District/Santiago Canyon College	San Diego County SER/JOBS For Progress, Inc.
West Hills Community College	Sonoma County Junior College District
California State University, Santa Barbara	West Hills Community College
Reedley College	COLORADO
Madera Community College	University of Colorado
COLORADO	FLORIDA
Adams State University	Miami Dade College
Metropolitan State University of Denver	University of South Florida
FLORIDA	GEORGIA
Miami Dade College	Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College
University of South Florida	University of North Georgia
GEORGIA	IDAHO
University of North Georgia	Boise State University
Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College	Community Council of Idaho, Inc.
Valdosta State University	Idaho State University
IDAHO	KANSAS
Boise State University	Tri-State Fort Scott Community College
Idaho State University	Kansas State University
Lewis-Clark State College	KENTUCKY
University of Idaho	Kentucky Community and Technical College System
KANSAS	LOUISIANA
Fort Scott Community College, Tri-State	Louisiana Delta Community College
Kansas State University	University of Louisiana at Monroe
University of Kansas Center for Research Inc	MICHIGAN
MARYLAND	Michigan State University
Salisbury University	MISSOURI
MICHIGAN	Junior College District of Newton McDonald Counties (Crowder College)
Michigan State University	NEW MEXICO
MISSOURI	Northern New Mexico College
Drury University	The Regents of the University of New Mexico
Junior College District of Newton McDonald Counties (Crowder College)	Three Rivers Education Foundation – Las Cruces
NEW MEXICO	The University of New Mexico
New Mexico State University	NORTH CAROLINA
Northern New Mexico College	Wake Technical Community College
University of New Mexico	OKLAHOMA
NEW YORK	Oro Development
Research Foundation for the State University of New York	OREGON
OREGON	Chemeketa Community College
Chemeketa Community College	Klamath Community College
Oregon State University	Oregon State University
Portland Community College	Portland Community College
PENNSYLVANIA	Better Together Central Oregon
Millersville University of Pennsylvania	PUERTO RICO
PUERTO RICO	Universidad Interamericana De Puerto Rico
Universidad Interamericana De Puerto Rico	TEXAS
TEXAS	El Paso Community College
El Paso Community College	Texas State Technical College Harlingen
St. Edward's University, Inc.	South Texas College
Texas State Technical College Harlingen	University of Texas - Rio Grande Valley, Edinburg
University of Houston	University of Texas El Paso
University of Texas, El Paso	WASHINGTON
University of Texas - Rio Grande Valley, Brownsville	Central Washington University

University of Texas - Rio Grande Valley, Edinburg	Columbia Basin College
West Texas A&M University	Heritage University
WASHINGTON	Big Bend Community College
Heritage University	Yakima Valley Opportunities Industrialization Center
Central Washington University	Washington State University
Columbia Basin College	WISCONSIN
Eastern Washington University	Madison Area Technical College
Skagit Valley College	
University of Washington	
Washington State University	
Wenatchee Valley College	
Yakima Valley College	