

## 2024 HEP/CAMP Interns



**Marco Antonio Alcantar Alvarez**  
**California State University, Sacramento**  
**Agriculture Research Services**

Marco Antonio Alcantar Alvarez attends California State University in Sacramento. He applied to the USDA HEP/CAMP internship to practice his graphic design skills in a professional setting and determine if a career in graphic design is right for him. Marco believes that this internship is a valuable opportunity to establish meaningful connections. He said, “I see this as a good starting point to work with people from diverse backgrounds and learn how they overcome challenges.”



**Jimena Anguiano Cisneros**  
**Oregon State University**  
**Natural Resources Conservation Service**

Jimena Anguiano Cisneros attends Oregon State University, and she is double majoring in both Agricultural Sciences and BioResource Research option: Plant Growth and Development. She applied to this internship to enhance her networking skills and advocate for her community. Jimena is motivated to make her parents proud and “to be a representative for those who need to be represented.” Jimena comes from an agricultural background, where she and her parents have witnessed firsthand the demands of working in agricultural fields. She is eager to expand her knowledge in every aspect of agriculture and is committed to bringing her expertise back to her community.



**Lucia Arellano**  
**Arizona States University**  
**Farm Service Agency**

Lucia Arellano attends Arizona State University. Since coming to the United States, she has been part of the migrant community, with her parents working in the fields for as long as she can remember. Her long-standing passion for contributing to her community and supporting fellow migrant workers led her to apply for an internship with the USDA HEP/CAMP program. She hopes this internship deepens her understanding of agriculture. She wants to build her leadership skills and practice navigating unfamiliar foreign situations.



**Daniela De Santiago-Zuniga**  
**University of South Florida**  
**Office of Partnerships and Public Engagement**

Daniela De Santiago-Zuniga recently graduated from the University of South Florida with a Bachelor's of Science in Social Work. She witnessed her parents working in the agricultural fields for as long as she could remember. Her early exposure to the relentless work of agriculture helped her appreciate the dedication required to cultivate crops and sustain food production. She is eager to advocate for individuals in vulnerable positions. Though her internship with the USDA Office of Partnerships and Public Engagement, she wants to enhance her advocacy skills and expand her cultural competence to contribute to the social work profession.





**Daisy Estrada Garza**  
**University of Idaho**  
**USDA White House Liaison**

Daisy Estrada Garza attends the University of Idaho. She hopes to gain valuable real-world work experience, establish professional connections, and explore different roles within USDA. She is eager to transfer her educational knowledge into professional skills and identify future opportunities for employment. She aims to build meaningful connections with professionals and hopes to find a mentor. She said, “Through this internship, I hope to be able to take on new challenges and responsibilities, as I believe they are essential for my personal and professional growth.”



**Mauricio Gonzalez**  
**University of North Georgia**  
**Office of Budget and Program Analysis/Equity**

Mauricio Gonzalez attends the University of North Georgia. Mauricio grew up in a household that USDA heavily impacted. Mauricio said, “Both my parents worked in agriculture, and USDA provided numerous programs that greatly supported my family, including SNAP, WIC, and the Rural Housing Development Program.” Applying to the USDA HEP/CAMP internship felt like a given to him. He is eager to learn how to be a productive government agency member.



**Yahir Luna-Cruz**  
**Valdosta State University**  
**Rural Development**

Yahir Luna-Cruz attends Valdosta State University. He is passionate about community engagement and hopes to actively contribute to initiatives that empower farmworker communities. Yahir aspires to expand his understanding of the agriculture sector and apply his new insights to addressing the various challenges faced by farmworkers. He is eager to gain hands-on experience and contribute to the USDA initiatives aimed at improving farmwork incomes. He said, “The experience will help me learn to apply to abstract knowledge achieve practical outcomes and facilitate evidence-based decision-making.”



**Christina Manasse**  
**Michigan State University**  
**Natural Resource Conservation Services**

Christina Manasee attends Michigan State University. She applied to USDA HEP/CAMP internship program to amplify her understanding of agriculture and gain firsthand insight into the vast scope of the industry. She is interested in seeing agriculture from a federal perspective and learning about USDA policy development, specifically in the Natural Resources Conservation Services agency. She said, “I hope to come to a decision on where in agriculture I would like to work after this internship.” She is motivated to improve her public speaking, and project management and gain a greater understanding of federal policies affecting agriculture.





**Yasmin Miranda-Mandujano**  
**Madera Community College**  
**Agricultural Research Service**

Yasmin Miranda-Mandujano attends Madera Community College. She said, “After learning about the HEP/CAMP USDA internship program, I believe this is an experience of a lifetime.” She believes this opportunity will enhance her leadership abilities and improve her networking and communication skills. In the near future, she hopes to work within migrant farmworker communities and make a difference. She believes that understanding how the USDA functions will aid her in achieving this goal.



**Jessica Nicole Perez**  
**University of South Florida**  
**Foreign Agriculture Services**

Jessica Perez recently graduated from the University of South Florida with a Bachelor of Arts in Global Business. Agriculture has always been a significant part of Jessica’s life, so she was thrilled to come across an opportunity to collaborate with USDA agencies. She said, “Working with USDA’s Foreign Agriculture Services excites me as it will provide a platform for understanding the influence of cultural literacy in engaging with international stakeholders and finalizing business deals.” She hopes to explore the integration of sustainable practices from various parts of the world into the agricultural environment of the United States.



**Jesus Ramirez-Munoz**  
**West Texas A&M University**  
**Office of the Chief Financial Officer**

Jesus Ramirez-Munoz attends West Texas A&M University. He applied for the USDA HEP/CAMP internship to explore agriculture from a new angle, beyond the traditional fieldwork he is familiar with. He believes gaining diverse insights into agriculture at various levels is important, and he hopes to contribute his skills to the USDA. Through this internship, Jesus anticipates stepping out of his comfort zone and networking with professionals in a professional network environment. He said, “I am blessed to have the opportunity to intern with USDA and hope to further expand my horizons to one day give back to the community that has encouraged me to pursue my dreams.”



**Carissa Romero Martinez**  
**Arizona Western College**  
**Agriculture Research Center**

Carissa Romero Martinez attends Arizona Western College, majoring in Engineering. “Coming from a worker family I had always looked to improve and move forward,” she said. Carissa recognized the HEP/CAMP internship as an opportunity to broaden her horizons, uncover new skills, and explore diverse career paths. She is eager to acquire hands-on experience in agriculture and exposure to the infrastructure of USDA. She is eager to contribute to the community and views this internship as a steppingstone toward giving back.





**Kevin Toribio Romo**  
**Western Iowa Tech Community College**  
**Natural Resources Conservation Service**

Kevin Toribio Romo attends Western Iowa Tech Community College. Coming from an agricultural background, he is motivated to help develop conservation solutions so agricultural producers can feed a growing world and protect natural resources. The HEP/CAMP internship program also resonated with his commitment to promoting animal welfare and protecting endangered species. In the near future, Kevin desires to establish a non-profit organization to advocate for animal rights and the importance of conserving wildlife for future generations. He said, “Through this internship, I hope to learn to get out of my comfort zone and strengthen my public speaking and wildlife conservation skills to contribute to my future wildlife conservation profession.”



**Vanessa Valencia**  
**Oregon State University**  
**Farm Service Agency**

Vanessa Valencia attends Oregon State University and recently graduated this Spring of 2024 with a Bachelor of Science in Marketing, specializing in professional sales and personal selling. She is passionate about supporting underrepresented communities and aims to use her experiences and skills to make a positive impact. She is excited about the opportunity to blend her academic knowledge with practical experience through the USDA HEP/CAMP internship, to gain valuable hands-on work experience, network with industry professionals, and advocate for the well-being of farm workers.