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Volume 3 Issue 1



High School Equivalency Program (HEP)

From The Desk of The HEP Coordinator

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Special points of interest:

- HEP in Washington DC
- 2015-2016 HEP Graduation
- HEP 2015-2016 Scholarship Recipient
- Students' Reflections
- Instructors' Reflections during year 2

WASHINGTON D.C.- "TOP TEN AN- NOUNCED"

Annual Meeting for HEP/CAMP Directors and Coordinators

This year's annual conference was held by the United States Department of Education and hosted by the Office of Migrant Education. Mrs. Beatrice Martinez, CVOC-HEP Coordinator attended the conference from July 17-20, 2016. The purpose of the conference was to provide grantees with technical assistance on grant administration and with resources for supporting staff development and project services to HEP and CAMP students.

The mission of the Office of Migrant Education is to provide excellent leader-

ship, technical assistance, and financial support to improve the educational opportunities and academic success of migrant children, youth, agricultural workers and their families. CVOC in partnership with the Office of Migrant Education continue to offer a variety of employment training and educational programs to our migrant families within our communities in the counties of Merced, Madera and Stanislaus.

The "TOP TEN" were announced at the Annual Meeting for HEP/CAMP Directors and Coordinators. In Washington, D.C. CVOC-HEP was thrilled to hear this nomination for a third time and to see that our High School Equivalency Program had met or exceeded the national percentile targets for the program year of 2014-2015. Our program

met the national percentile in graduation for the GPRA 1 with 73%. We exceeded the placement for graduates for the GPRA 2 with 99% and effectively and efficiently used the program funds for the 138 CVOC-HEP participants.

The **Annual HEP/CAMP Conference** will be coming to Sacramento, California on October 16-19, 2016. The CVOC-HEP staff are thrilled to be attending this year's conference.

*Written By:
Mrs. Beatrice Martinez
CVOC-HEP Coordinator*



Congratulations HEP Graduates 2015-2016!!!

MADERA HEP



Part of the 20 Madera graduates with Mrs. Roman



MERCED HEP

**“The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their Dreams”
Eleanor Roosevelt**



Some of the 28 graduates the Merced HEP had this year.

MODESTO HEP



Part of the 37 Modesto HEP Graduates

2015-2016 HEP Scholarship Recipient

Dulce Tellez



My name is **Dulce Tellez**, I was born in Hidalgo Mexico. I came to the US when I was 17 years old. Ever since I came I had dreamed of going to school but almost 20 years passed before I had my dream come true; however, I learned that it is never too late to accomplish what you really want. Last year I decided to put all excuses aside and I enrolled in the HEP program offered by CVOC to obtain my GED. The first few days were very difficult and I was about to give up but thanks to Ms' Miramontes words I desisted that idea. Till this day I can still hear those words in my mind "if this was easy everybody would do it, but look around, there is only a few people in the class and you are one of them." That stayed with me and if for some reason I hadn't gone to school until then, why would I give up when I had

reached my goal of going to school? It wasn't easy, there were moments of frustration but it was worth it. The reward at the end was great. During my time at CVOC I met many people who believed in me and encouraged me to keep going. I want to thank my beloved Mrs. Martinez who has been an angel in my life. Thanks to her valuable advice I am slowly still climbing until I reach my goals. At CVOC I also had the honor of receiving a scholarship to go to college. At the beginning I doubted in submitting the application but I thought to myself, "I don't lose anything by filling it out" and what a surprise at graduation when they named me as the scholarship recipient, I never imagined it would be me. With this scholarship I will continue preparing myself and I will go on to college. Last semester I did not attend college because at the moment I received the scholarship I was already attending the GBO training also offered by CVOC. I want to go to college to get my child development permit to work with kids; I would like to be able to work at a preschool.

Lastly I want to tell everyone who doubts, who thinks that it is too late to go to school I ask you to please give yourself the opportunity of believing in you, it is a great satisfaction when you finally reach your goals.

I will leave you with this phrase Yes, you can!!



Merced HEP- Isabel Miramontes

I have been the CVOC HEP instructor at the Winton site for a year now. This year has been a learning experience for me as well. When one thinks of being a teacher they think on doing all the teaching and that is true, to an extent, teachers do most of the teaching; however, as a teacher you learn a lot from your students as well. During this year I've had many different students in my class. Students who wanted to be here, students who, by their attitude, I could tell didn't want to be here, students who were academically high functioning and students who were not so much. I've seen some of my students extremely frustrated because they could not comprehend a concept, especially when working on algebraic concepts. Sometimes during those frustrating moments I could feel that frustration myself as well. In this same way, there have been plenty of joyful moments. Every time one of my students, who never thought they could, passed a test or when someone graduated I would see how happy and proud they felt for their achievements, those joyful moments become mine as well. At the end it doesn't matter how much a student knows or doesn't know. I've learned that much depends on their attitude and commitment to their goals. Their excitement and gratitude at the end motivates me to keep going and encouraging them to keep going forward when they feel like giving up. I am looking forward to this year's HEP/CAMP National Conference in Sacramento to instruct myself and learn as much as I can in order to be a successful instructor at the HEP program and continue helping my students achieve their goal of attaining their high school equivalency diploma.

Madera HEP-Where Are They Now?



My name is **Dora Olivares**. I graduated from the HEP Program at CVOC Madera this year, 2015-2016. I continued studying at Madera Community College. I am striving to learn more one day at a time. This semester I am taking two English classes to be able to increase my reading comprehension, and learn how to write documents and essays. Taking these classes previously at CVOC has helped me tremendously because I am applying those skills I learned in the HEP program with my new classes at the college. Education is something very important to me, that is why I am striving to do my best. It is very difficult sometimes because my native language is Spanish. I will learn English, get an education and live one day at a time because that is what Mrs. Roman at CVOC taught



Madera HEP-Maria Roman

Year 2 has been comprised of new learning experiences and challenges as an instructor. I had worked with students from Pre-School, Elementary, Middle School and High School before I started working for CVOC on April 29th 2015. Working for CVOC has been a new experience. I have to work with adults who are at different academic levels and who work at a different pace. Consequently, I have to develop individual learning plans for my students, based on assessments they are given before enrollment and during class.

My coordinator, Mrs. Martinez, has taught me a lot of things but the essential one is that it is imperative to constantly assess students, by doing so I was able to detect what specific areas they needed help with the most. I was confronted with many challenges because some of my students didn't even know what fiction meant, what a paragraph was, difficulty with Reading and Math. I have learned from my students a lot of things because I build a good relationship with them; therefore, they feel free to let me know what helps them, what makes them struggle, and by doing so; they have made me realize that new things can be integrated to the lessons to make them more understandable, or other things can be changed. One thing I have realized is the fact that the simpler we make the lesson for students to understand, the more they comprehend and relax. Students can get frustrated if we make lessons long and confusing

Overall, year 2 was one of my biggest challenges and fulfillments. I learned a lot of things from my mentors, co-workers and students. Teachers have to be open- minded to accept suggestions and new ways of implementing lessons. We have to be constantly alert to new ways of learning and using any tool that is available. The use of technology is something we have to take advantage of as well. I just hope to continue learning and teaching because my job doesn't just consist of teaching. I have learned many things from good hearted people who are always willing to help. I can say I am very proud of my students and satisfied with my performance because I was able to graduate 20 students. This was the goal that I set for myself, and that was exactly what I was able to accomplish.

Modesto HEP-Where Are They Now?



Dear CVOC,

First off, I would like to thank CVOC and Triny Cortez for this meaningful recognition and the message I'm about to share. Being part of CVOC was the beginning of my dreams, hopes, and goals in life that I still have so many to accomplish and yet excited to do so. All I want to do is share how human kindness affects other people's actions in this world.

Growing up as the youngest of eight children and being raised as an only child was quite difficult. I am the daughter of two wonderful hard-working parents that I love so much; however, I did not have the support a child needs when it comes to understanding the importance of earning an education in this country. I must say that when I dropped out of High School my senior year it was indeed one of the saddest days of my life. I was always an F student warming up the seat of a desk and just waiting for school to be over. Believe it or not, I always had the desire to earn good grades and complete my homework but I never did. Why? Because I was afraid. I was afraid of failure and I did not know It was okay for me to dream just like thousands of students throughout the country who were preparing themselves to do so. One night, I pictured myself working for the law enforcement department and wondered what was needed to be part of it. I knew you had to have a degree and a lot of determination so I thought to myself, "Oh Maura you will never be part of it, you are not smart enough." and I fell asleep. The next morning, I looked at myself in my mirror and said out loud, "If other people can do it why can't I?" and with that simple phrase I gained enough confidence and courage to take the first step by registering to the HEP program offered at CVOC and go after my GED.

I thank God for allowing CVOC to hire Triny as a teacher. If anything, it should be her receiving all the recognition from all the students that were privileged enough to be part of her class, just like I was. I cannot be thankful enough for everything she did for me. I had and still have so much respect for her because instead of teaching college students at a great university she decided to help adult's find a lost dream they never had as a college student. Her support and everyday encouragement was what led me to pass my GED exams It was never based on intelligence but having someone that cared enough to be there repeating herself every day and teaching grade school to grown adults is what I call true support and human kindness. I will never have the exact words to express my appreciation to Triny and CVOC for helping me believe in myself. As I obtained my GED certificate I felt as though it was finally okay to know that I could also dream for better things.

After receiving my GED, I enrolled at Kaplan College, Salida CA and graduated in 2014 with a GPA of 3.5 receiving my Associate of Arts in Criminal Justice. I'm currently enrolled at the University of Phoenix, Salida, CA pursuing my Bachelors of Science in Psychology. Of course it has not been easy due to having a learning disability (dyslexia) and many other life obstacles that I've encountered but what I've learned from this journey is that I believe in myself and everything is possible as long as I do believe. For me it is not about success, wealth, or winning in life... instead it is about helping each other and knowing that our kindness is much more valuable than any degree in this life. With all the humbleness of my being I am happy to say that I am currently working in the Field of Investigations- my dream job. Whenever I see someone in need regardless of the situation I'm there to help because I was once in need of encouragement and support and CVOC was there for me. On my final note, everyone has gifts and talents and all you need is God to help you see them. He did it for me and He can do it for you... it is never too late to go after your dreams.

Respectfully,

Maura Chavez-Romero





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Find us on the WEB

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CVOC is happy to announce the continued funding from the Department of Education to provide migrant and seasonal farm workers who have dropped out of school with a unique and exciting opportunity to obtain a GED certificate. **The High School Equivalency Program (HEP)** is a 16 week GED program that is offered in English and Spanish.

To be eligible for the program a person, a parent or relative living in the household, must have spent a minimum of 75 days during the past 24 months as a migrant or seasonal field worker. He/she must be at least 18 years of age or over, or beyond the age of compulsory school attendance, not currently enrolled in a secondary school and not have earned a secondary school diploma or its equivalent.

The participants 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, or be placed in a career development program. All materials and books needed for the program are provided absolutely FREE.

The program is held at CVOC sites in Winton, Madera and Modesto. Any interested individual may call or visit the Merced Training Center/Winton at 6838 Bridget Court; phone: (209) 357-0062 Ext.135 or the Madera Training Center at 1930 Howard RD. Suite # 125; phone: (559) 662-0100 at Stanislaus Training Center/Modesto at 1581 Cummins Dr; phone: (209) 577-3210.

Modesto HEP-Trinidad Cortez

Every year that I teach is different, and the age of a student or their grade level doesn't really matter. In the end, every year has a lesson to be learned. There are times when students feel frustrated, as I can as well. There are times when students are distracted or unmotivated. Yet when they finally comprehend that which was so difficult at first, their feelings of success are also mine. It is at that point and time when all the frustration becomes a thing of the past and that feeling of doubt turns into a feeling of joy and accomplishment. Then the graduation ceremony follows, which for many students is the ultimate icing on their cake. It is a ceremony where they are being honored for all their hard work and devotion. Some students even have the opportunity to be speakers and share their personal stories. We all smile and cry at the same time because all the emotions that are felt crash down on us at the same time. Then it happens, a student that graduated tells me that they are grateful for all my help along their journey, and I am reminded of why I do what I do. Not for the gratification of being acknowledged but for the gratification that in some way, I have helped someone accomplish one of their personal goals. To be a teacher requires a certain kind of special human being, and I am ever so proud to be a part of and that is what my teaching experience has been like while working for CVOC-HEP.