

FALL  
2018

# ARKANSAS MIGRANT EDUCATION PROGRAM

CELEBRATING MIGRANT MOMENTS

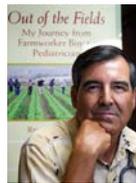


## WHAT IS THE GOAL OF MIGRANT EDUCATION?

The goal of the Migrant Education Program is to ensure that all migrant students reach challenging academic standards and graduate with a high school diploma (or complete a GED) that prepares them for responsible citizenship, further learning, and productive employment.

## 2018 STATE CONFERENCE

The Arkansas Migrant State Conference was held November 7-8 in Fairfield Bay, Arkansas. The goal was to provide professional development to migrant staff across Arkansas. More specifically, it was an opportunity to celebrate the efforts and hard work of migrant tutors. Over the past year, I have observed the importance of their role and recognize them as the "backbone" of the migrant program. My role as Program Advisor was to make this event the most impactful as possible by investing in the migrant tutors and showing them how much they are valued. Author Dr. Ramón Resa, of California, was keynote speaker and shared his life story with us. A farmworker boy abandoned by his mother at age three, Dr. Resa experienced extreme poverty, physical and sexual abuse, struggled to learn to speak English, and suffered from a speech impediment. Yet, his teachers saw potential in him. They promoted his love of reading and encouraged him to get an education. His teachers were influential in the direction his life would go. Fast forward to current day, Dr. Resa has been a practicing pediatrician in Porterville, CA for the last 27 years. Arkansas migrant tutors work directly with migrant students daily, instructing and encouraging them to dream big. They have the opportunity to change students' lives because they, like Dr. Resa's teachers, value their students and the importance of education. The Conference was a chance to say thank you, and offer additional tools to help them continue the excellent job they are currently doing. ~ Cindy DeRosa



## NEWS from SOUTH Arkansas Migrant Educational Cooperative



Molly Watson and her students from Centerpoint High School attend Bear Facts Day at the University of Central Arkansas.

Darla Neely, Special Projects Coordinator, teaches migrant students reading strategies such as predicting and summarizing during recent book parties at Dumas and Centerpoint schools.



Nurse Angela Morin was the guest speaker at the Dumas Migrant Parent Meeting.



## STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Monica Johnson has played a significant role in the Migrant Education Program. During her 13 years of service, she has served as tutor working directly with migrant students, recruiter identifying and serving migrant families, and most recently the Recruitment, Eligibility, Data Specialist (REDS) and State Quality Control Coordinator. To say that Monica has made great contributions would be an understatement. She has dedicated herself to the Migrant Program and has made a huge difference in the lives of those she has served.

Her dedication has made a huge difference in the lives of those she has served. Monica has been a caring friend, reliable colleague, trusted advisor, and loving teacher. Her sweet spirit has made her the go-to person for so many and she will be greatly missed. Monica will work through the end of June at which time she will be leaving our Program. We appreciate all of her hard work and dedication to Migrant Education. Monica, THANK YOU for your service. You will be missed.



## AMESLA 2018

The Arkansas Migrant Education Program sponsors an *Arkansas Migrant Education Student Leadership Academy* (AMESLA) to give migrant students a chance to participate in an ExCEL Challenge Program with University of Arkansas educators who are experienced in working with youth and adults. ExCEL uses dynamic outdoor activities to translate leadership skills immediately into real-life situations. It is an adventure into self-confidence, clearer communication and new perspectives. The major goals of AMESLA are for migrant students to acquire these skills and experiences with the intention of positively affecting Arkansas' migrant drop-out rate and building positive role models among peers in their local schools and communities.



**40** high school students were selected to attend the adventurous weekend in October. Many of them shared how AMESLA was not only an opportunity to acquire leadership skills, but also a chance for them to make lifelong friends.

### DID YOU KNOW ?

**14%** of all students (including migrant) in Arkansas are chronically absent? Chronic absenteeism is when a student misses a month or more of school per year – that's an average of 2 days per month. See the ***Make Every Day Count*** article for more information.

FYI FOR YOUR INFORMATION



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<http://migrant.k12.ar.us>

[www.arkansased.gov/divisions/learning-services/migrant-education](http://www.arkansased.gov/divisions/learning-services/migrant-education)

## Parent Meeting in Clarksville

On November 16, 2018, Clarksville hosted a Migrant Parent Night at the Pyron Elementary School cafeteria. There were **47** parents in attendance. A traditional Karen dinner of fried rice, spicy noodles and samosa was prepared by migrant tutors.



Three high school migrant students volunteered their time to oversee and provide activities for the children in attendance.

Damaris Henry, Director of Arkansas Migrant Education Program, spoke to parents about the importance of their child's education and provided parents with information on ways they can help their children be successful in school.



Traditional ethnic Karen food



Karen dinner served by migrant tutors

Ms. Henry discusses the importance of parental involvement



## Make Every Day Count

In Arkansas, more than one in 10 kindergarten and first grade students are chronically absent, which means they miss almost 18 days of school each year. Students who are chronically absent are less likely to read on grade level. When children aren't in school, they miss out on critical reading and math instruction they'll need to succeed later in school and life. In 2013, Arkansas-GLR (Grade Level Reading) launched the *Make Every Day Count* initiative with Attendance Works to help schools, districts, and communities track chronic absence and develop and implement plans for keeping

children in the classroom. For more information, go to [www.leadingattendance.ar-qlr.net](http://www.leadingattendance.ar-qlr.net)

