

# 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.

### 6

#### SENIORS RECEIVED SCHOLARSHIPS

The Stan Young Migrant Education Student Scholarship Award was established to honor Arkansas senior migrant students who desire to achieve personal and career goals by furthering their education. The Award is made possible through the generosity of Arkansas Migrant Education personnel and is a reflection of their beliefs in the potential for success of migrant students in Arkansas.

The criteria used to select the awarded seniors included their ability to:

- demonstrate commitment to educational goals
- participate in school/migrant related activities,
- demonstrate good citizenship qualities, and
- participate in community projects

Upon reviewing 27 applications in an extensive selection process, six students were awarded \$500 each. **CONGRATULATIONS** to the following Arkansas seniors!!

Lizette Vasquez, Buffalo Island  
 Maria Lopez, Dumas  
 Brenda Salas-Venegas, Centerpoint  
 Guadalupe Martinez, Hermitage  
 Carmen Zavala, DeQueen  
 Lucas Mitchell, Jonesboro

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#### STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Most people would think Lucas Ian Mitchell was just a typical high school student. However, if you ask him, he does not think so. His biological father has been absent in his life and he has had to take care of his mother who was diagnosed with lupus. He and his mom and brother moved from house to house, some with no electricity. Lucas has endured many hardships, but despite the adversities, he was able to work for Lawrence Farms clearing land in the woods. Later, he got a job at a nursing home and it was then when Lucas says he "made a decision to be successful." He excelled in football, loving the discipline and authority, and earned the position of Captain. He also joined the ROTC Program and during his senior year, he held the rank of Officer. In his essay, Lucas wrote that he wanted to go into the medical field to help people. We have the privilege of assisting Lucas in obtaining a degree in Nursing. Lucas is one of the recipients of a Stan Young Migrant Education Scholarship. It is evident he will be successful in life. Congratulations!

## What does MUA stand for?

MUA stands for "Moving Up Arkansas." It is a summer program offered to high school students of migrant families in Arkansas. After submitting an application and approval from their district superintendent, students attend a 14-day summer school program held on a university campus. Content courses, taught by certified teachers, are offered to students in order for them to acquire credits needed to graduate. Each course consists of 40 hours of instruction. Upon successful completion, the scores are transferred onto their high school transcripts.



Here is a picture of the group of students who successfully completed the 2018 MUA Program. After spending June 3-16 at Arkansas Tech University, 23 students earned credits towards graduation.

**Congratulations** students!

### DID YOU KNOW?

The Arkansas Migrant Education Program serves over 5,000 students throughout Arkansas – offering migrant children (ages 3-21) educational and support services.

## Migrant Students Visit Washington, D.C.

The Arkansas Migrant Education Program has participated in the **Close Up Program** since 2013. Close Up is meant to encourage, empower, and inspire students to become more active and effective citizens in American democracy through week-long immersive programs at our nation's Capital. Each year, 10-12 high school migrant students throughout Arkansas are selected to travel to Washington, D.C. However, it is not that easy. Applicants complete a lengthy application, submit two letters of recommendation, and write an essay on *What it Means to be a Leader*. Twelve migrant students (out of 22 applicants) were chosen to attend this year, along with three migrant staff. From June 10-15, they were shown first-hand the power of the political process and how it relates to them. Using DC as a living classroom, students explored famous monuments and world-renowned museums, made personal connections with students from across the country, and held meaningful conversations with Arkansas state representatives.

7 students traveled from Fort Smith airport



Students met John Boozman, US Senator for Arkansas



5 students traveled from Little Rock

## Middle School MEGA Days in Hope, AR

Southwest Arkansas migrant students in grades 5-8 attended 2018 Middle School Mega Days on March 27-28 at UAHT/Hempstead Hall in Hope, Arkansas. At the event Darla Neely, Project Coordinator of MEP South Co-op, made students aware of the dangers associated with social media. The students took part in an informative tour of the UAHT campus with Enrollment Services Specialist, Presley Capps. All of the participants took home a booklet entitled "The Internet and Social Media/A Guide for Parents." This resource will aid to reinforce good social media habits learned during Mega Days.



FYI FOR YOUR INFORMATION



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