This year, the University of Washington’s (UW) College Assistance Migrant Program (CAMP) hosted their 4th annual Dare to Dream Summer Academies. With nearly 100 students in attendance from all over the state of Washington, students had the opportunity to spend an entire week on campus giving them a glimpse of how it feels attending college and living in student housing. Throughout the week, students were able to gain a better understanding of high school requirements and the opportunities that are available to them after graduating. The purpose of the Academies is to inspire students to perform well in high school while simultaneously creating a High School and Beyond Plan.

The week long Dare to Dream Summer Academies are made possible by a grant provided by the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) – Migrant Education Program (MEP). With the assistance of the Association of Washington State Principles (AWSP), students have the opportunity to receive high school credit for attending the academies. The Dare to Dream Academy is split into two different groups: the Exploring Your Future (EYF) Academy and the Academic Academy. Students participating in the EYF Academy are assisted with high school and beyond planning, career exploration, leadership, financial aid, and admissions workshops. The students who attended the Academic Academy had the opportunity to explore and build their skills and abilities in math and science.
A Week Full of Inspiration

A highlight of the week was the Academic Fair and Professional Career Panel provided for the students. During the Academic Fair, various UW departments came from across campus for students to learn more about the type of resources UW and other colleges can provide. The Professional Career Panel allowed students to interact with professionals from a wide range of careers where students had the opportunity to ask questions and learn more about different types of careers. Adding to the Professional Career Panel, students were also able to explore careers, create future goals, make educational plans to reach those goals, and find the right training program or school to reach those goals through WOIS/The Career Information System.

Students in the EYF Academy and Academic Academy worked on various activities throughout the week:

- Students in the EYF Academy focused on their career and personal goals throughout the week. They also had some fun when visiting and touring the recently renovated Husky Stadium.

- Students in the Academic Academy worked on hands-on activities throughout the week. They had the opportunity to dissect different animal organs, work on a crime scene investigation and create new inventions. They also had fun building and launching rockets!

“Witnessing the students’ progress throughout the week is a great reminder as to why I love being a mentor! The 2015 UW Dare to Dream Academy definitely motivated them to strive for better and to never give up.”

- Dulce Siguenza, Mentor

“The Academy challenged students to step out of their comfort zones and inspired them to Dare to Dream.”

- Lupita Tovar, Mentor

“Dare to Dream is a life changing experience for students. It not only allows them to grow but also inspires them.”

- Yaneli Iman, Mentor

“They grew in so many aspects in just one week. Now imagine what they can accomplish in a lifetime!”

- Mari Garcia, Mentor