

Tuesday, February 24, 2004

Dear Mr. Reader,

The purpose of this letter is to encourage continued funding of the College Assistance Migrant Program (CAMP) at California State University, Sacramento (CSUS).

I remember writing a similar letter in 1998 to support the funding for CAMP, and it is with great pleasure and the most sincere gratitude that I will continue supporting CAMP for the rest of my life. If it wasn't for CAMP, I would have never have had the chance to get a degree. It is because of programs like CAMP that people like me are able to succeed.

I arrived to the United States in 1985, I worked in the fields and other jobs before going to high school in 1986. If it wasn't for CAMP, I would have never attended college. In 1988 I was admitted to CSUS through CAMP.

In 1997 during a school trip to CSUS, Alejandro López who was the CAMP outreach counselor was giving us a lecture on why we should go to college. He also said that anyone who wanted to go to college could do that. When I heard that I said: "*Le puedo preguntar algo en español?*" (May I ask you something in Spanish?) And he responded: "*Por supuesto que si!*" (Yes you may!). "*¿Cómo puedo ir a la Universidad si mis papás viven en México y yo tengo que trabajar para mantenerme? ¡Me voy a poner bien flaco!*" (How could I afford to go college if my parents live in Mexico and I have to support myself? I will definitely lose weight!). Alejandro went on and explained to me that CAMP was here to help people like me get a college education, and that CAMP would be like a "*familia*" and that they would support me both emotionally and financially.

With the help of CAMP, I was admitted to CSUS in 1988. The years went by and I always remembered the words from Alejandro: "*Si se puede!*" (Yes, it is possible!). Throughout those years, I kept coming back to CAMP, it was "*mi segunda casa*" (my second home) and it was my duty to give back to CAMP what it gave me. I helped tutor the new students and made them feel at home. In addition, through college I started working part time in the computer field.

In 1994, I graduated from CSUS with a B.S. in Computer Science. And yes, *¡si se pudo, gracias CAMP!*

I started working with Intel in Folsom CA, in 1990. And today 2004, I still work with Intel Corporation but in Mexico City. I have worked with Intel for the past 13+ years, 10 of them in Folsom, CA, and 3+ in Mexico. Currently I have a position as a Business Development Manager for Government and Energy Sectors for the Country of México, a position of great importance since I am a Technology Trusted Advisor for key México Government Accounts. I have even assisted the US Embassy in México on a couple of events.

If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact me.

Truly yours

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