



## Graduation and Outcomes for Success for OSY

GOSOSY Newsletter • Spring 2016

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### Member States:

Kansas  
(Lead State)  
Alabama  
Florida  
Georgia  
Illinois  
Iowa  
Kentucky  
Massachusetts  
Mississippi  
Nebraska  
New Hampshire  
New Jersey  
New York  
North Carolina  
Pennsylvania  
South Carolina  
Tennessee  
Vermont

### Partner States:

Alaska  
Arkansas  
California  
Colorado  
Idaho  
Maryland  
Minnesota  
Missouri  
Montana  
Oregon  
Washington  
Wisconsin

## Director's Message

Spring is in the air and, in the world of migrant education, that means plans are underway for summer programs and continued efforts to make your MEPs even more efficient and successful. I deeply appreciate all of the efforts of so many to design and fine tune our GOSOSY Year 1 objectives. Take a peek inside for more information about the upcoming Mentoring Program Pilot, a new Student Learning Plan, Goal Setting Workshop information, and Mental Health Life Skills Lessons. Of course, that's not all we have in the works so stay tuned for more information as 2016 continues. Do you have insights and ideas about how GOSOSY can continue serving our member and partners states? I would love to hear from you. Reach out to me any time at [tkalic@embarqmail.com](mailto:tkalic@embarqmail.com). Thank you!

*Tracie Kalic, GOSOSY Director*

## Annual Directors Meeting

The Office of Migrant Education Annual Directors Meeting was held in Washington D.C. in February. GOSOSY was proud to present an overview of the upcoming three years with our 18 member states, 12 partner states, and five partner organizations. Our Year 1 primary goals in development were featured:

- OSY Learning Plan
- Goal Setting Workshops
- Mentorship Program
- Curriculum and Materials
- CIG collaboration across the migrant education community

The most important piece of the presentation was a reminder of why those goals really matter. Recent student success stories were highlighted in order to underline the promise that GOSOSY's progress will continue until we reach every single OSY with resources to meet their needs and academic goals.

## News To Note

GOSOSY has many exciting projects in the works as we seek to enhance and improve our services to out-of-school youth. Three that will be rolling out in 2016 are the OSY Mentorship Program Pilot, the OSY Student Learning Plan, and new Mental Health Life Skills Lessons.

1. The OSY Mentorship Program Pilot is being designed in collaboration with World Ed Inc., an international education company based in Boston. World Ed has years of experience in adult/older youth education and has a mentoring program in place that has been widely successful. GOSOSY is adapting that program with input from member states and will pilot the project in the coming months.
2. World Ed will also be assisting in the development of an OSY Student Learning Plan. Several states have Student Learning Plans in place and are offering input from their experiences. The Technical Support Team's Learning Plan Work Group is researching how best to combine the successful examples into one tool that will soon be available consortium-wide.
3. Also in development is a series of new Life Skills Lessons focused on mental health. The National Center for Farmworker Health is currently creating five lessons that will be available in both English and Spanish. The lessons include *About Mental Health, Depression, Anxiety, Use of Alcohol*. In addition, the Adult Learning Resource Center will be assisting with the creation of learning enhancements to be used in conjunction with all of the Mental Health Life Skills Lessons.



## Motivate Your Migrant Students with Powerful Success Stories: The Astronaut and the CEO

Jose Hernandez was a 12-year-old migrant student picking cucumbers in the late 1970s. By 2009 he was a U.S. astronaut who spent 14 days in space helping to complete construction of the International Space Station.

How he got from the fields to outer space is an inspiring story featuring dedicated parents, supportive teachers, and a little boy who latched on to a dream and did not let go.

All of our migrant students are not fortunate enough to have those three important ingredients in their life story, but Hernandez's life can still be an inspiration to them because achieving his goal did not come easily. He was rejected by NASA 11 times before finally becoming an astronaut at age 41.

Hernandez tells of deep discouragement after so many rejections.

"People get rejected twice, on average, before they're picked. That sixth year that NASA rejected me, I crumpled up the rejection letter and threw it on the bedroom floor. I was going to quit trying, but [my wife] talked me out of it.

"Don't disqualify yourself," she told me."

Hernandez listened to his wife and remembered the very man who inspired his astronaut dreams – Franklin Chang Diaz, the first Hispanic astronaut.

"Seeing someone who looked and sounded like me succeed pushed me to reach my goal. He spoke with an accent, had brown skin, and came from humble beginnings like me. I spoke broken English until I was 12 years old."

Hernandez's life continues to be an inspiration to migrant students. After retiring from NASA in 2011, he ran for the U.S. House of Representatives representing California's Central Valley. Though his campaign was unsuccessful in 2012, he continues to advocate for the region and has not ruled out running for Congress in 2018.



Another role model for migrant students is Anna María Chávez, currently the CEO of Girl Scouts of the USA. Chávez, whose father was born in Mexico, grew up in an agricultural community in south central Arizona. She saw very few classmates, particularly girls, go on to achieve a high school diploma and consider college.

After watching her mother serve on the local school board and being saddened as a little girl by graffiti mar- rying a historic cave with indigenous writing, Chávez set a goal of reaching college and law school so that she could advocate for causes in which she believed.

Once she had achieved both of those goals, Chávez worked in Washington D.C. for many years and later became a Girl Scout leader in Texas. In 2011 she was hired as CEO of the organization. Her advice to Scouts about mapping their way to a goal applies clearly to all students, including those living a migrant lifestyle:

"I like to think that everyone should work smarter. I've learned that you have to always be ready and eager to learn, and be open to change and accept new experiences, but always in the light of your own values and beliefs. If you map out a path to your ultimate destination, it'll make the journey a bit easier."

Chávez, who was named in March as one of Fortune's World's 50 Greatest Leaders, spends her career motivating the 10 million-plus girls in 146 countries who make up the Girl Scouts. Through her own education and ambition, her voice is now heard worldwide on the many different issues in which she believes.

"...dream big and be fearless. Don't settle in life. We live in an incredible country with every conceivable opportunity. Set your sights on big things and then don't be afraid to pursue those big dreams."



# State Spotlight: NORTH CAROLINA

Sonja Williams • *Migrant Education Program Administrator*



## ► DEMOGRAPHICS

The North Carolina Migrant Education Program has 6,001 students, according to the 2014-15 CSPR. Of these students, there are approximately 1,200 out-of-school youth. The students in the program are scattered around the state, with the majority in the 30 project counties, but around 12% in regional service areas. Our state has a high mobility rate, with approximately 40% of our students moving each year. Our highest feeder state is Florida, followed by intrastate moves, then by students from Georgia and Texas. Students leave our state to return to Florida or to go to Ohio and Michigan, then back to Florida, South Carolina, or Texas. North Carolina has one of the highest number of H-2A workers in the United States, and each year we are able to recruit up to 400 H-2A workers under the age of 22.

## ► ID&R

In addition to locally-based recruiters in project counties, we have five regional recruiters. They each cover around 17 counties, and are able to provide basic supportive services, mentoring, and some tutoring.

## ► STAFF

State-level MEP staff consists of a Program Administrator, an ID&R Coordinator, and two AmeriCorps VISTAs.

## ► COLLABORATION

Because we are a small program, collaboration is a critical feature of our work. We have longstanding collaborative relationships with Wake Technical Community College's HEP Program, Student Action with Farmworkers, East Coast Migrant Head Start, the Farmworker Unit of Legal Aid, the North Carolina Justice Center, Wake Forest University Medical School, NCFIELD, the U.S. and North Carolina Departments of Labor, the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, and Migrant and Community Health Centers, to name just a few.

## ► AmeriCorps VISTA

Our program has been enhanced for the last four years by our AmeriCorps VISTA program—a Regional Approach to Migrant Programs and Services (RAMPS)—in which our VISTAs train community and university volunteers as mentors and tutors to serve the non-subgrant counties. We have been able to recruit, train, and support more than 50 volunteers during the last four years and serve over 200 OSY who would not have had English Language instruction or mentoring otherwise. We hope to begin a new VISTA effort next summer (Training, Resources and Advocacy for Farmworker Youth—TROFY), with six VISTAs serving the east, west, and central parts of the state, offering trainings and developing materials for use with migratory students.

## ► SUCCESS STORIES

The NCMEP has continued to slowly grow in size for the last eight years, even as nationwide numbers decrease.

- Since September 2015, we have had eight OSY receive their High School Equivalency Diplomas this year.
- Some of our OSY who have been working in photography and media production with Peter Eversoll (a NCMEP Regional Recruiter) had their photographs shown at an international exhibit in Mexico City.
- We have sponsored an OSY Institute each summer for the last six years and it grows every year. This is done in collaboration with the Wake Tech HEP Program, and it features learning opportunities for both OSY and for staff. This year it will happen on August 4, 2016, in Raleigh, NC.