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ABSTRACT

College education can provide job opportunities, knowledge, skills, and personal growth. Migrant students who want to go to college should let others know of their interest and learn all they can from others' experiences by talking to family, counselors, and others who have attended college. Starting early and not giving up are important. Taking challenging courses in high school and taking the Scholastic Assessment Test (SAT) and American College Testing (ACT) are important early steps. Family support can be gained by sharing plans and information with them. Teachers and counselors may help with family support. Investigating college programs involves deciding between large and small schools, 2-year and 4-year programs, and commuting and residing on campus, as well as choosing a major. Visiting campuses gives one an idea of what the college experience is like. There are a variety of financial aids: scholarships and grants, work-study programs, and loans. There are also several programs just for migrant farmworker students. Once at college, preparing for and attending classes, seeking help and friends when needed, scheduling time, and visualizing oneself as a graduating student are helpful tips for success. (TD)

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Go for It!

Migrant Students Succeed in College

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Go for It!

Migrant Students Succeed in College

Developed with funding from the
U.S. Department of Education
Office of Educational Research and Improvement

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GO FOR IT! That's what migrant farmworker college students and graduates said when we asked for their advice for other migrant students. *"Go ahead and go for it,"* said one. *"Don't let anyone stop you. You will have something no one can take away. It may be a bumpy road, but it will all work out."*

Southwest Texas State University student

High school history teacher, accountant in a CPA firm, senior customer service agent for an airline, Peace Corps volunteer, medical student, elementary teacher, account executive for a TV station - these are some of the jobs that former migrant farmworker youth hold now. The Gloria and Joseph Mattera National Scholarship Fund for Migrant Children, a small fund helping migrant farmworkers and their children with college expenses, asked former winners of the awards for their thoughts about college. The answers were overwhelmingly positive. The recipients want to encourage other migrant youth to follow them to college.

What can a student get from college? we asked. Both students and graduates talked about personal growth as well as knowledge, skills and job opportunities. Here are some of their thoughts:

"It's a good feeling to have a secure job to provide for your family and kids."

University of Texas - Pan American student

"A more positive attitude toward life in general - it gives you lots of self confidence, a belief that you can accomplish. Once you get an education at any level, you believe that you can open doors for yourself. I can use my education to help others. In this area where we have a large population of disadvantaged, I can help."

Ohio State University graduate

"I love my job. A lot of kids look up to me. My younger brother looks up to me."

Brown University graduate

"The experience of being in a multicultural environment, meeting people from various ethnic groups. I have learned their customs, made some friends. I have grown personally and emotionally. I have become more well rounded."

California State University - Fresno graduate

HINT: Remember, you are not in this alone.
Let others know you are interested in college.
Learn from their experiences.

What to do now while you are in high school

When should you begin thinking about college?

Now! Let your family, teachers and counselors know that you are interested in college. Find out all you can. Learn from the experiences of others. Talk to:

- relatives who have attended college,
- teachers and counselors,
- older friends, and
- people in your community

What do they think about college? Where did they attend? Was financing college a problem? What ideas do they have for you? Many people will be happy to share their experiences with you.

You can also read about college. Your guidance department will have materials. You can check the high school and local libraries as well.

"Specifically for high school students, I would say, 'Speak with a counselor.' You need to use the resources at the high school. Also, ask questions, attend college recruitment fairs. Look at the VISTA magazine. They publish a list of financial resources every year. Look at the CAMP program. My brother went to St. Edward's on a CAMP scholarship. I did not know about that. If I had gone to a university with a CAMP program, I would not be so in debt."

Southwestern University graduate

"Ask questions of anyone who might be able to help. Don't be afraid to ask questions."

Texas A&M student

College preparation courses

With the help of your teachers and counselors, enroll in the courses you will need to prepare for college. Be sure to take challenging English, mathematics, science and social studies courses. Foreign languages and computer science will be valuable as well. Many college students told us that they felt unprepared for college coursework. They wished that they had learned more, studied harder and taken more challenging course work while they were still in high school.

"You are expected to know more and study more at the university. You should get those college bound courses that will help. I never took AP [advanced placement] courses, but I took math all through high school and I took chemistry, biology and physics. You should take typing, to type all the reports."

Northern Arizona University student

HINT: Some high schools arrange with nearby colleges for students to earn college credit for some courses. These courses are often very low cost and can be transferred to give you a head start on your college credits. Check to see if your high school offers such courses.

SATs, ACTs

Some colleges require that students take standardized tests and submit their scores when they apply for admission. Many colleges in the Eastern and Western parts of the United States require the SAT (Scholastic Assessment Test). The ACT (American College Testing) is often required by colleges in the South and Midwest. The SATs and ACTs measure verbal, mathematical, reading and reasoning skills. Most students take the ACTs or SATs in their junior or senior year of high school. Early in your junior year check with your high school guidance office for schedules for these tests. Ask about fee waiver to cover the costs of the tests. The guidance office may also have sample tests for you to study.

Some schools offer preparation classes that give you a chance to practice for the tests. Reading materials of all kinds - magazines, how-to-do-it books, novels, etc. - will also help you. Successful test taking will depend on expert reading skills. Also, you can review your math skills to prepare for the tests. Don't forget, you can take these tests as many times as you wish. Your highest scores will receive top priority; the rest will be discarded.

Calendar for College Planning

Freshman/Sophomore High School Years

- Talk to teachers and counselors about college
- Learn all you can about college
- Enroll in college preparation courses
- Strive for high grades
- Join extra-curricular activities that interest you
- Take PSAT (Preliminary Scholastic Assessment Test) in sophomore year

Junior High School Year

- Take SATs/ACTs
- Talk to teachers and counselors about college
- Continue to research college. Write to colleges for catalogs and applications.
- Continue to take college preparation courses
- Strive for high grades
- Consider career possibilities; take career inventory tests if your high school offers them
- Join extra-curricular activities that interest you

Calendar for College Planning

Senior High School Year

- Last chance to catch up on courses
- Strive for high grades
- Talk to teachers and counselors about college
- Take or retake SATs/ACTs
- Write to colleges that interest you for catalogs and applications
- Apply to 3 or 4 colleges
- Fill out financial paperwork (see section on Finances)
Remember: EARLY, EARLY, EARLY
- Visit college campuses

This is a sample letter form that you might use to request information from colleges that interest you. Be sure to type the letter if possible.

Your mailing address
Date

Admissions Office
College mailing address
(Find this in the college listings in
your high school guidance office)

Admissions Office Staff:

I am a student at (name high school) making plans for college. Please send an application, course catalog and information about scholarships and other financial aid to the address above. Please also include a dormitory reservation application. I am considering a career in (name your career choice or choices).

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Your signature

Your name (typed if
possible, or
printed neatly)

Your family's support

You want what is best for your family, and your family wants what is best for you. Sometimes the ideas agree and sometimes not. Some families have long seen education as a way for their children to succeed. For others it is a new idea. If you wish to go to college and your family supports your goal, wonderful! Their backing will be invaluable to you as you plan and during your college years. Share your plans with them as they develop. Your going to college will become an adventure and an education for the entire family.

If you are thinking of college and your family is not supportive, be patient. The cost of college, the separation from the family, the loss of income from your attending school instead of working, the possibility that you will change, the paperwork - all of these can be frightening to your parents. You may be the first one in your family to think of college. Sometimes it is very difficult to make this change. Everyone will have to think about the idea. Perhaps a teacher or counselor can help you talk to your parents about college. Do share what you learn about college with other family members and continue to plan.

"My father did not believe in higher education. There was no support there. When I left my family would call for money. It was hard for them to see because I could have stayed home and worked

in the fields. Finally it is in the interests of the family for the student to go to college. It is worthwhile. You should go part-time if you can't go full-time. A college degree is needed to compete in today's society."

University of Texas student

"My parents don't want to see me work out in the fields. They say, "Go to school." It's never crossed my mind not to come to college."

Southwest Texas State University student

Investigating college programs

GOOD, you have decided to go to college,
but what college?

- Large, medium or small?
 - Two-year or four-year?
 - Local or away from home?
 - Commuter or resident program?
- Choice of majors and programs?

Small college/large college

Students at small, medium and large universities will all defend their choices. The smaller schools often are able to offer smaller classes and more contact with staff. Larger schools, however, often have a greater variety of courses and activities for the student.

A student who had attended a small college suggested, *"I would advise students to strongly consider the importance of the size of college. A student at a small liberal arts college of total enrollment less than 2,400 will receive a lot more faculty attention and probably support as well than if they attended a larger school."*

A student attending a large school remarked, however, on the advantages of attending a school with a large, diverse population where you can get to know people from many backgrounds.

You must ask yourself: where will I be most comfortable? Where will I be able to get the education that I want?

Private college /public college

The choice of a private as opposed to a publicly-financed college may look like a financial choice. The private college is thought to be more expensive to attend than the public. Often this is true. But you may want to check the financial aid packages (See section on Finances) at each school. It is possible that the higher total cost of the private school is offset by more aid available at that school. In making a choice among schools, you will want to consider other factors, such as majors available, activities, location, ethnic groups and graduation rate, etc.

2-year college/4-year college

Many jobs today require more than a high school education but less than a four-year degree. A two-year degree might open up such possibilities as: electrician, health technician, medical records technician, legal secretary, plumber. You can check into these and other possibilities by looking at catalogs from two-year colleges.

Some also recommend the two-year college as a good transition between high school and a four-year college. It is often a lower cost choice than the four-year school. Students sometimes find that they can enroll in a two-year school, earn an associate's degree there and then transfer to a four-year school to obtain the bachelor's degree they desire. Often the two-year school is close enough to home that a student can commute, thus saving money on room and board.

Others think that unless students have particular two-year programs in mind, most students should enroll at a four-year college immediately following high school. They say that the variety of programs, options and activities available at the four-year schools outweigh any possible financial advantages. It is also possible that with financial aid, costs will be similar. You will want to look at many factors in making your choice, such as student population, distance from home, activities, religious groups, etc.

Major

"It is hard to choose a major. One friend was going for biology. He was going to be a doctor, to make money and have prestige. With that idea for picking a major it may be different from what you really want to do. The best thing to do is do something you feel good about."

St. Edward's University student

Your "major" is the area in which you concentrate your studies. Students will say that they are accounting or elementary education or math "majors." Some students know from the time they are in grade school exactly what they want to pursue as a career. Others spend much of their first years of college searching for an appropriate major. If your high school has a career planning program, do take advantage of it. Investigate your interests and talents. Find out how they relate to career possibilities. While you are searching, take a broad range of tough high school courses. That way you will not only find out more about areas of interest, but you will also be prepared for any major that you select.

One factor in the choice of a college is your planned major. If you want to study electrical engineering or physical therapy, for instance, you will have to learn what colleges offer those programs. Also, remem-

ber that many, many students change their minds about a major once they have entered college. Does the college you are considering offer a broad enough range of programs that you can make a second choice that you are comfortable with?

"There is an office at [my college]. They give a test to find out what you want to do. I found out I was people oriented."

California State University - Fresno graduate

HINT: Most colleges have counseling/career planning centers. Take time your first semester to stop by to see what services are offered.

Completing the applications

No question about it - applying to colleges means completing a lot of paper work. Many applications demand extensive information about you and your background and also ask for one or more letters of recommendation as well as a statement you have written. Take time to read through the applications before you begin filling in the information. Check carefully to see exactly what is necessary. Complete them slowly and neatly, answering all of the questions. If you fail to fill in some information, your application may be delayed.

Ask teachers, counselors, employers - people who know you well - if they can write letters of recommendation for you. Give them the information about the particular questions a college has. Be sure to give

them ample time. Also, work carefully on a draft of a statement on the topic the college has requested from you. Often you will find that with small alterations you can submit the same statement to more than one college. When you finish your draft, ask other people to read it and give you their thoughts. Then polish your statement before you mail it with your application.

Remember, your migrant farmworker background is a positive element to include in your applications. **Colleges are looking for people from diverse backgrounds. They need you!**

Visiting the campus

"Before my freshman year my father came with me to the campus and walked around with me."

Ferrum College student

Visiting campuses before enrollment was mentioned by many as very important. It is very hard to know what a campus is like by reading the application booklets. Watch for chances to make campus visits. Sometimes school clubs will make such trips and you can go along. Ask your guidance counselors if they know of such opportunities. If you live near a college, visit the campus even though the college may not be your first choice. You will learn more about the college experience from visiting campuses. Spring break might be a good time to visit.

"At the high school level you need more exposure for migrant students on what college is like. You need exposure. What it is like. If they are never exposed, they will never know what it is."

University of Findlay graduate

"Anyone considering college, who is first generation to consider it, must really research what they are getting into. This includes visiting the college, understanding the system, and expectations of the university/college. By doing this, you might reduce the effects of such an environmental change!"

University of Arizona graduate

What if the college you choose does not choose you?

OK, it happens. Sometimes you don't get into your first choice of college. That is why you want to apply to more than one school. Do your best work in filling out the application forms and apply to more than one - perhaps three or four. Consider applying to both state and private colleges. There is a college for you.

HINT: You are selling yourself. The University needs you because of what you have to offer.

College Assistance Migrant Program

"CAMP was by far a very important factor! It provided me with the knowledge to know what to do when I encountered a problem. Though the scholarship is only for one year, it provides a strong college foundation. The staff and the university were and always have been reauy to lend a hand. Enrichment week helped bond me and my 59 classmates. As we finish our college careers we still look back and look out for one another."

St. Edward's University student

Migrant students interviewed gave high marks to the College Assistance Migrant Program (CAMP). CAMP offers help to migrant workers or their children during their FIRST year of college. CAMP pays for most of the costs of the first year and gives you spending money for living and personal expenses. Staff from CAMP are there to help with your questions or problems.

How does CAMP help you?

- CAMP connects you with a tutor, a student who helps you with studies and meeting new people.
- CAMP has special classes and workshops for basic study and test taking skills.
- CAMP helps you choose a major (your special area of study) for the career you want to enter.
- CAMP helps you budget your money.
- CAMP shows you how and where to apply for money for your last three years of college (such as scholarships, grants and loans).

You may be eligible to get help from CAMP if...

- you or your family worked in migrant or seasonal farm work for at least 75 days in the past two years, or
- you have been eligible or participated in a migrant education program under Chapter 1 - Migrant Education, or
- you have participated in a JTPA section 402 program.

Six universities now have CAMP programs:

CALIFORNIA

California State University - CAMP
6000 J Street
Sacramento, California 95819
(916) 278-7241

California State University - CAMP
5150 N Maple Ave
Fresno, California 93740-0067
(209) 278-4768

IDAHO

Boise State University - CAMP
Department of Teacher Education
1910 University Drive
Boise, Idaho 83725
(208) 385-1754
1-800-824-7017 (outside Idaho)

OREGON

Oregon State U - CAMP
Waldo Hall 337
Corvallis, Oregon 97330
(503) 737-3628

PENNSYLVANIA

Penn State University - CAMP
208 Boucke Building
University Park, PA 16802
(814) 865-0459

TEXAS

St. Edward's U - CAMP
3001 South Congress Avenue
Austin, Texas 78704-6425
(512) 448-8626

**HINT: CAMP openings are very limited.
If you are interested, you must apply early.
Also, entry may be very competitive. You may
need good grades and SAT/ACT scores.**

Also: CAMP is excellent for a student's first year. And CAMP staff do offer help in looking for financial resources for other years. But, check to see what a year will cost at the CAMP school you have chosen after that first year. Will you have to pay out-of-state tuition fees? How do the costs compare with other schools you are interested in?

I am interested in CAMP. Please send me more information.
(Mail this form to the university with a CAMP program nearest you.)

Name

Mailing Address

Town

State

ZIP

Maria "Bobbie" Gutierrez Teacher



"Having worked as a teacher in both regular and migrant programs, I have seen many educators make the mistake of assuming that migrant students will never make it in college and whether consciously or unconsciously, they relay this message to the student through daily interaction. Unfortunately, many migrant students begin to believe this themselves and lose interest in their studies, which leads to failure in school."

As a teenager Maria "Bobbie" Gutierrez migrated with her family each winter from Ohio to Florida to harvest strawberries. Bobbie and her brothers and sisters had left Mexico when she was 13, knowing no English. They struggled to learn. Bobbie decided then that she was going to be a teacher. The transition to college studies was not easy though. For three years after finishing high school she continued to work in the Florida fields during the winter, working as a recruiter and aide for the migrant program in Ohio during the summer. Recruiters from Findlay University visited the summer program and told her that scholarship money was available for students who entered bilingual education. Findlay University offered the program and financial assistance she needed, and the college was only an hour from her home. She graduated in 1991, the first in her family to obtain a college degree.

After two years teaching, Bobbie made another hard decision. She learned of a nine-month program at the State University of New York at New Paltz. She could obtain a master's degree in special education with emphasis on migrant students. It would mean leaving her job and family for the year. The program could increase her abilities to work with students with diverse and disadvantaged backgrounds. She accepted the challenge and completed her master's degree.

Bobbie now teaches Spanish to high school students in Lorain, Ohio. She believes strongly in the power of teachers to make a difference. *"With the large increase in students that have diverse backgrounds there is a need for people to work with this population. Teachers are key; they have a great impact to bridge the gap with this population."*

Note: Photo was taken at the time Bobbie received her scholarship.

Finances

How will you pay for college? You are right! This is the big concern. Most migrant students we talked to listed the finances first as a barrier to going to college. Don't let the costs keep you away though. You will probably be able to get help. Financial aid can pay for tuition, fees, books, room and board, transportation and other miscellaneous expenses. There are three different sorts of financial aid:

- Scholarships and grants - money given to you to pay for schooling. You do not have to pay these back.
- Work-Study Program - money you earn in a part-time job while you study. You do not have to pay work-study money back.
- Loans - money you borrow to pay for school. You must pay back loans plus extra money for interest.

Most financial aid comes from these 3 sources:

1) The Federal government is the source of the most financial aid. It offers grants including the Pell Grant and the Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (SEOG). It offers loans: Perkins Loans, Stafford Loans, Parents' Loans for Undergraduate Students (PLUS), and Direct Student Loans (at some schools). It also provides the funds for the Federal Work-Study (FWS) Program. All these forms of financial aid except the PLUS program are based on your "need" - more about that later.

HINT: Send for your free copies of financial aid materials offered by the U.S. Department of Education. You can call on the toll-free line: 1-800-4-FEDAID.

2) Colleges and universities provide various scholarship and grant opportunities on an individual basis from their own funds. Financial need, scholastic average, extra-curricular activities, major, leadership promise, ethnic background and other factors may all be considerations in qualifying for these awards.

3) Private institutions offer a variety of grants and scholarships helpful to many students. Each one will have its own guidelines for awards. You may find out about some of these possibilities from your high school guidance office. You also may find large listings of such opportunities in books at your local library.

Remember, most students will be getting most of their financial help for college from the federal government and the college or university they enter.

HINT: Several migrant farmworker students mentioned the National Hispanic Scholarship Fund as a source of college funds. This is a private institution. The National Hispanic Scholarship Fund is open to applications from students of Hispanic descent who have finished 15 or more college credits and are enrolled as full-time college students.

National Hispanic Scholarship Fund
PO Box 728
Novato, CA 94948
(415) 892-9971

Your "financial need"

Much financial aid is based on your "need." Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). You can get this form at your high school guidance office or college financial aid office in late November. It should be submitted as soon as possible after January 1 of the year you want to enter college. The FAFSA requires information from your parents' income tax form as well as information about your college plans and your family's finances. The information you report in the FAFSA is used to compute your "expected family contribution" toward your education. The "expected family contribution" is the amount that the government computes that you and your family can contribute to your college costs. The financial aid office at the college you have chosen can then subtract your "expected family contribution" from the cost of attendance at the college to determine your "financial need."

$$\begin{array}{r} \text{Cost of Education at } \underline{\hspace{2cm}} \text{ University*} \\ - \text{ Expected Family Contribution =} \\ \text{Financial Need} \end{array}$$

* Total cost of attending for one year, including tuition, room and board, books, supplies, fees, transportation, child care and miscellaneous expenses

You can see that if one college you are interested in has a higher or lower "cost of education" than another, your financial need figure will change. Using this financial need figure, the financial aid office at the college can figure out your "financial aid package."

The "financial aid package" is made up of a combination of scholarships and grants, work-study opportunities, and loans. Check the financial aid pack-

ages at all the schools that interest you. You may find that one school is able to offer you financial aid that includes more grant and scholarship money, money that does not have to be paid back, while another school includes more loans in their financial aid package. You want as few loans as possible.

Working during your college years helps you meet college expenses. Such jobs also may give you chances to meet people and gain experience that you would not otherwise have.

Students warned us, however, that you must be careful to balance your activities. Too great a reliance on work as a source of funds may interfere with your studies. One student said, *"A factor I see that makes students drop out of school is the 'need to work.' For example, I feel that my GPA [grade point average] would be better if I had no 'need to work.' By working I am able to balance out my school expenses, but at the same time it pulls me back from having enough time to fully concentrate on my studies."*

Your high school guidance counselors will have good information about applying for financial aid. Also the financial aid office of the school you choose will help you.

Award letter

After you have completed all the paper work, the colleges you have selected will reply to your request for financial aid with an "award letter." The award letter tells you what your financial aid package will be at that college. You will learn what part of your financial aid package will be made up of scholarships and grants, what part will be work-study, and what part will be loans. You can compare the financial aid package of

one college with another. You have the opportunity to accept or reject the various parts of the aid.

Each award letter must be returned by a particular date shown on the letter. **Do return the letter by the date shown or the award will be cancelled.** If you accept the terms of the financial aid offer, you do not necessarily have to go to that college. You are just making sure that the financial aid will be there if you do choose that college.

HINT: Be sure to apply for your financial aid as EARLY as possible (Immediately after January 1). The students who apply first may get the best financial aid packages.

"I didn't have any problems once I informed myself of what was available to me. The financial aid office of the university was a lot of help as well as the high school guidance and career office."

Florida State University graduate

"I always try to apply for as many scholarships as I can. I am trying to avoid further debt on loans."

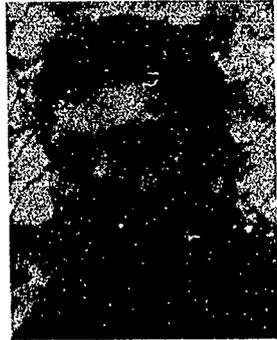
Southwest Texas State University student

"I tried to combine organizations, agencies and people to get financial assistance. I joined many organizations, including student government and took part in sports too when I could. First you know people and they will help guide you."

University of Texas - Pan American graduate

Mario Alaniz Engineering student

"The main idea we should start hammering into our children's minds, starting from grade school is: 'You are going to college.' Once you remove the option of going to college, there will be no say whether or not the kid gets a higher education."



Mario Alaniz's family has spent many seasons moving from their home in Edinburg, Texas, to harvests in Iowa, North Dakota and Nebraska. Mario is now a mechanical engineering student at the University of Texas at Austin. The mechanical engineering program is a very demanding one, but Mario is succeeding and expects to graduate soon.

The transition to college was not an easy one. He found the first semester particularly difficult as he became accustomed to the large campus and his first college courses. *"The second semester I put everything into it."* Mario joined other engineering students in forming study groups. He also asked questions. He suggests that other students, *"Go to class every day. Bug the professors more. Bother the teaching assistants."* He made the honor roll at the end of his second semester. He knew then that he could make it.

Mario is now involved in a cooperative program with the Johnson & Johnson Company. He alternates semesters between the University and working as a paid employee for Johnson & Johnson. *"Not everyone is in a coop program. But today it is not smart to finish school without getting experience."* Mario thinks that he may choose to work for Johnson & Johnson after he finishes college.

What would Mario say to other migrant students?
"Go for it! Actually if there is a will to do something, there is always a way. Maybe you won't make it the first semester. I didn't. But keep trying and you will make it."

Scholarships for migrant farmworker students

Some small scholarships have been established for migrant farmworker students. A national one is the *Gloria and Joseph Mattera National Scholarship Fund for Migrant Children*.

The Mattera Fund offers scholarships (usually \$100 - \$250) to migrant farmworkers and the children of migrant farmworkers. The priority of the Fund is to help those students whose families are currently migrating between states to obtain agricultural work, and enough applications are received by the Fund that most awards are given to students who fit the priority. About 75 scholarships are given each year. Applicants must complete the application form and submit it along with a letter of recommendation, a statement concerning their goals and a copy of a form showing their acceptance by the school they have chosen. If you wish to obtain a copy of the application form, call: 1-800-245-5681 or write to:

Mattera Fund
BOCES Geneseo Migrant Center
Holcomb Building, 210
Geneseo NY 14454

On campus

"My freshman year I did not know what to expect. I was scared, surprised."

Southwest Texas State University student

"College seemed like a different world to me because I didn't at first understand the system/structure. I didn't know what major/minor was, upper division, lower division, professional core courses. All this was like a new language. I wondered what they had really taught me in high school and grade school. Perhaps they had taught me a dialect - not the whole language. I also got culture shock. I came from a region where I saw, lived, exchanged thought, and spoke to people of my same background. The Anglo people had just been at the top giving directions, and teaching - some were even friends. But overall, I interacted with Mexicans. In college I met and made friendships of a true nature with whomever I wanted to, regardless of race, color, sex, or religious preference. I also got a perspective of the world - it didn't revolve around my little one."

University of Arizona graduate

Yes, it is going to be tough. And it is also going to be fun. You are going to be involved in one of the most important experiences of your life. One student thought about her college years and compiled a list of suggestions for other migrant farmworker students:

There are several things that I did while I was going through all those difficult years. These are:

- 1. Being always positive when things went wrong. I would tell myself that they could only get better*
- 2. Never giving up. If someone couldn't help me, I could go to someone else who could help me*
- 3. Thinking about a bright future and not so much of the present*
- 4. Making my studies my priority!*
- 5. Having a positive relationship with my professors*
- 6. Knowing important resources (people) and asking lots of questions*
- 7. Keeping a personal journal*
- 8. Getting involved in education*
- 9. Practicing hobbies*

Northern Arizona University student

You are going to be involved in challenging courses as well as meeting many new people and finding new friends. You may be away from your family for the first time in your life. Here are some other ideas that people have given for succeeding in college:

1. Go to class! This might seem elementary, but you might also be surprised how many freshmen skip so many classes that their grades are affected.

As one student told us, *"I had never been on a college campus before I came here. I didn't know about schedules. I thought it would be like high school; the bell would ring and you would go to the next class. I didn't know that you might have an 8 o'clock and then no class until 10 or 11."*

2. Prepare for classes. Some instructors advise that you will need to spend two hours preparing for each hour in class. Some students we talked with suggested that they got help from student study groups. Study groups are usually set up informally. Five or six students from a chemistry course, for instance, might decide to study together.

"The first year it took me some time to get on to it. In academics I was expecting it to be much, much different from high school. And it was different. Here we have to know more of the concepts. You really need to understand concepts. You have to apply ideas in the exams."

St. Edward's University student

3. Seek help when you need it. Stop after class or visit your instructor during an office hour when you have questions.

"Lots of my friends were afraid that professors might scold them if they asked a lot of questions. That's a mistake. Here the material builds and builds, and you get behind if you don't get answers to your questions. At first I was scared. Lots of professors don't take roll and don't know students' names. But they are willing to help. I would say, 'Don't think about what he can say, don't be embarrassed or afraid.'"

St. Edward's University student

4. Seek new friends. The other students in your classes, in your dining halls and dormitory are potential friends. You may also find activities to join where you will meet people with similar interests.

"College has been a great experience. I not only focus on academics, but on participating in organizations on campus. I am currently secretary of a service fraternity called Alpha Phi Omega. I am taking advantage of everything the university has to offer."

University of Washington student

5. Schedule your time, seven days a week.

6. Set priorities. Do the important things first. Study! Study! Study!

"You have to set up goals, priorities. Some students deviate to fun things. I think I can do both. Some never sleep, skip classes, but I think I can do both."

St. Edward's University student

7. Visualize yourself as a graduating student.

Yes, it is a big task, but you can do it. You will challenge yourself intellectually and socially. The rewards of a college education will be worth your efforts. As the students told us, **"Go for it!"**

Many recipients of the Gloria and Joseph Mattera National Scholarship Fund for Migrant children awards gave generously of their time to share ideas for this booklet. Thank you!

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