

# MIGRANT

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# MAGAZINE



## Kentucky Migrant Education Program

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## KYMEP PAC gathers ideas to improve programs

By: Heather Rhorer, Migrant Consultant

On Saturday, April 18, the KYMEP held its third PAC meeting of the year. We had parents from across the state come and engage in an active conversation about the MEP, services and the students we serve. We focused on three main questions: How can the MEP better engage OSY? How can the MEP increase kindergarten readiness? How can the MEP provide summer services to more students? The parents were able to manipulate resources used with OSY, participate in some classes that are typically offered to OSY, review and handle materials typically used with preschool students and review summer program schedules. This, along with some data, provided them with some background knowledge and a basis to provide valuable feedback. The parents were able to provide us with feedback and suggestions on how to improve our program and services for migrant children across the state.

To increase summer programming participation their top recommendations are:

- Balance the fun activities with academics.
- Be flexible when offering summer programming.
  - Offer classes in the afternoons or evening for those who have to work.

- Start the programs later in the summer and end the week before school starts.
- Add extra spots for new students moving to the district.

- Focus on students in a transition year (i.e., pre-K to kindergarten, elementary to middle, middle to high)

To better engage OSYs their recommendations are:

- Share the personal experiences or testimonials of OSY with other youth to encourage them to continue learning.
- Focus lessons on how to adapt to the American culture.
- Figure out

what interests the OSY have and use that to encourage and reward them for their work. For example, allow them to use the iPad to Skype with family if they come to a lesson.

To better prepare our students for kindergarten the parents recommend that we:

- Help parents teach their children basic communication principles (i.e., how to tell the teacher you need to use the bathroom or if you are in pain).
- Provide families with age and size appropriate educational materials.
- Help get them registered for preschool before the deadline passes.



Heather Rhorer, State Migrant Consultant leading parents in an activity to demonstrate the number of preschool students that are ready for kindergarten.

# Lorenzo Simon Receives Al Wright Memorial Scholarship Award

By: Judith Littleton

Lorenzo Simon, a senior at Scott County High School, was awarded the 2015 Al Wright Scholarship at the opening general session of the National Association of State Directors of Migrant Education (NASD-ME) Conference in Seattle, Washington in March. He was one of three winners, and the first winner ever from Kentucky. The scholarship included a check for \$5,000 to be used for funding continuing education, a plaque honoring his accomplishments, and a laptop computer. Lorenzo plans to attend Lincoln College of Technology in Indianapolis, Indiana, to study automobile collision repair. The Kentucky Migrant Education family is very proud of the tenacity and determination Lorenzo has shown throughout his high school years and expects great things from him as he begins this next chapter as a college student.



## First Trip to Seattle

By: Lorenzo Simon, Scott County Migrant Student

It was the first time that I have been to Seattle. I enjoyed my stay there. At first I was scared about the flight, since it was my first time that I have ever flown in an airplane, but I found it enjoyable; if you like to be on the rides at the fair was almost the same feeling. I slept most of the flight, but woke up in time to see when we landed in Seattle. I liked the view from the airplane as we were circling around waiting to land at the airport. It was cloudy and beginning to rain when we got there. It was a beautiful place. It had trees all over and I saw why people call Washington the Evergreen State. I only stayed in Seattle but I imagine that it's the same in every town

in Washington. The hotel was pretty nice and cozy. The pillow was soft and my head would sink in when I laid my head on it. The thing that I liked the most was the zoo. It had a variety of animals that I hadn't seen before, like a pack of wolves, Komodo dragons, two, humongous bears, lions with their cubs, and much more.

The second thing that I liked the most was the arcade that was across the street from the hotel. There were a lot of games to play there. It's like a kid's dream at that place and I felt like a kid when I walked in there. The bad thing about Seattle was that it was loud and I didn't know the area that well.

## Migrant monitoring visits experience

By Elma Simpson, advocate/recruiter in Marion County

I had the opportunity this past school year to be on a monitoring team. I had a wonderful experience! Our team monitored programs in Pulaski, Garrard, and Nicholas counties. All three districts have several great things happening in their programs. It was amazing how passionate migrant staff were about providing services and meeting the needs of migrant students and families.

The monitoring visits allowed me to gain a first-hand perspective on how other districts operate their programs, strategies they use in identifying and recruiting potential migrant families, and what to expect when they come to monitor our district. It really helped me better prepare and provided me with some new ideas that I could bring back and incorporate into our own program.

One thing I learned about and that we implemented in our program as soon as I returned is how to create a needs assessment survey for students and families. During the visits, Tom Hanley, assistant director of ESCORT, mentioned that a migrant program should have a formalized needs assessment to identify student and family needs so it can better serve them. Most MEP staff rely only on student needs assessment and asking parents and teachers without using a formal assessment process.

I strongly believe that being part of the monitoring team is something that everyone should consider. It is a great professional development. We can all grow and benefit from seeing how other programs are run, and I feel it's something that we just don't do enough.

# The Blitz Experience

By: Christina Benassi, ID&R Coordinator

Does everyone know what a blitz is? According to one definition, a blitz is, “an overwhelming all-out attack, especially a swift ground attack using armored units and air support.”

The migrant “blitz” is similar since we use a bunch of recruiters and “attack” a specific area and look for migrant families. We go to churches, schools, Mexican stores, Mexican restaurants and other places to recruit migrant youth and families. Attending one of these blitzes is a wonderful learning experience for those involved. I know every year that I attend a blitz I get a new perspective from the various recruiters and learn something new. This past blitz I learned different items to look for at a mobile home to see if migrant families may live there. This is helpful for me during my trainings that I conduct for new recruiters. I highly recommend attending a blitz if you are new or seasoned recruiter. You learn a lot about your co-workers, build relationships and learn more about recruiting.

The most recent blitz occurred May 17-22 in several different counties. We had one to two teams per day with two to three people per team. I was very thankful for anyone that could spend a day or two out of their busy schedule to help.

The first few days we went to Jefferson and Bullitt counties. We found many Hispanic residents, but many were immigrants that have lived in these counties for several years. We also went to Shelby County and assisted Elizabeth Mandeel. It was wonderful going to the apartments and

knowing that everyone knew Ms. Elizabeth. We also went to Nelson, Marion, and Washington counties.

We actually recruited two OSYs during our blitz. We were very excited to be able to help these young men. One young man needed help with his paperwork so he will be able to come back to the U.S. once his H2A visa expires. The advocate in Washington County will be able to help this young man.

During the blitz, I was reminded of some observational tricks that can be used to identify possible migrant homes. One way is to look to see if shoes or boots have been left outside the home. Migrant workers may leave their dirty boots and shoes outside, and wear sandals or flip

flops inside. Migrant homes also may not have curtains or blinds, but instead use heavy blankets or blankets or flags with country of origin symbols on them.

Another possible way to identify migrant families is to

look for cultural or country of origin paraphernalia, like flags or religious statutes or relics, hanging in their cars.

It is important to not be discouraged. Even though we only found two youth, we now know areas that may not have migrant families. We also learned a great deal about recruiting and conducting a blitz in different regions.

If you would like to have a blitz in your area or assist with the fall blitz in Kentucky please contact Christina Benassi at [Christina.benassi@education.ky.gov](mailto:Christina.benassi@education.ky.gov) or (502) 564-3791 ext. 4025.

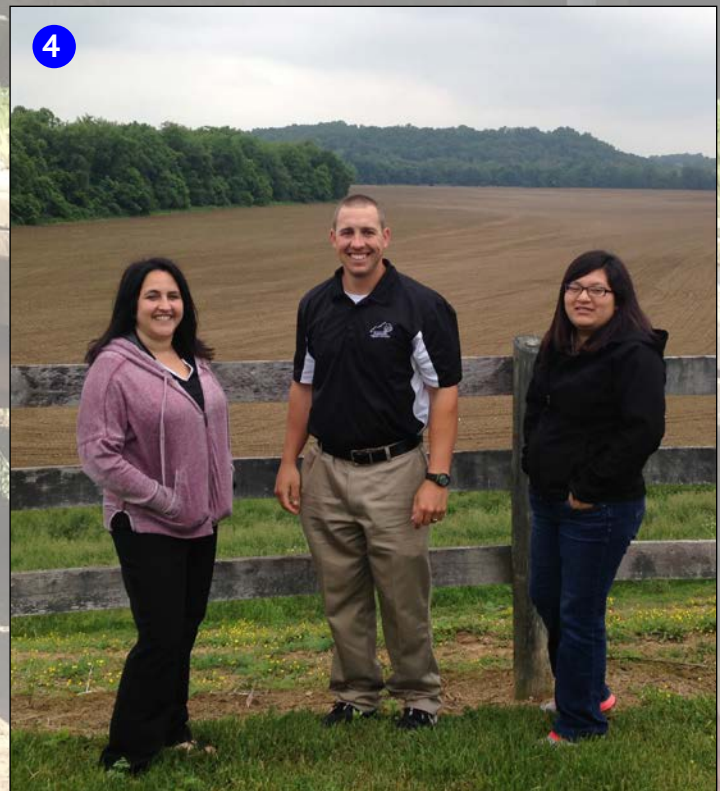
*I enjoyed the blitz and had fun. I met new people, saw different recruiting styles, and was able to talk about what my program does for our kids and families. I was a bit disappointed since we really didn't find many qualifying families or OSY's. One OSY was better than nothing at all. I would like to go on another Blitz if an opportunity came up.*

Thanks,  
Karen Garcia Martinez  
Educational Interpreter/Tutor



Connie Granados, Central Regional Recruiter talking to a possible migrant at the laundry mat

# The Blitz Experience



1. Jorge Echegaray, ESCORT staff and Daylin Casalis, Fayette County Recruiter Advocate waiting to talk to a possible migrant mowing pastures 2. Jorge Echegaray and Mabel Howard, Central Regional Recruiter 3. Jorge Echegaray, ESCORT staff assisting with the BLITZ and Connie Granados, Central Regional Recruiter walking to a trailer that may have possible migrants. 4. Mabel Howard, central Regional Recruiter, Adam Blair, Washington County recruiter/advocate and Karen Garcia, Clark County Tutor

# Visiting Graves/Mayfield Migrant Summer Camp

By: Christina Benassi, ID&R Coordinator

I went to visit this outstanding program on June 9. I was really taken aback by how much the students were engaged and entertained the entire day. After they ate breakfast they were broken into groups (K-2) and (grades 3-5). The younger students were working with Lysis Soto, an English Language (EL) teacher of twelve years. She was helping the students compare various versions of the “Little Red Riding Hood” story. While she read the story, she stopped several times to introduce new vocabulary words including “scorcher,” and “scrumptious.” The students really enjoyed using these new terms. She also reviewed letter flashcards and sounds with the students. At the end of the summer camp, the students will put on a “Little Red Riding Hood” play for their parents.

While the younger students were focusing on reading, the older students were working with Jason Lyndsey from Hooked on Science. (<http://hookedonscience.org/>). He is a former meteorologist and he now works teaching students a love for science. He made learning fun. The students read the story, “The Three Little Pigs Sledding Adventure” by Stephen Krensky. After reading the story, the students constructed sleds out of various building materials. They reviewed the Engineer Design Process, which was “design, create, try it out, and then make it better.” Then they weighed their sled and measured how fast their sled went down the slope. They learned that the more mass something was, the faster that it went down the slope.

The students also began creating something to build in Minecraft. The group that I observed decided on creating a house made out of gold bricks. Everything that Mr. Lyndsey did correlated directly to Kentucky standards. The students were constantly learning in a fun environment.

This is his fourth summer coming to Mayfield Elementary. I am sure he will continue to share his knowledge with these students.

The middle school students collaborated with the local extension office to learn how to sew bags. They did a great

job. Later that week, the students were going to sew laundry bags to take with them to middle school camp at Kentucky Dam Village. They were very excited.

In the afternoon, all the students came together for a special science activity. Mr. Lyndsey constantly changed activities to keep the students engaged and interested. He first started talking about air and how you cannot see it, but we know it is there. He explained this by using a drum and hitting the back of it and the air came out and moved a student’s hair. He also had volunteers knock cups off other students’ heads to further show what the air does.

Another activity he did was discussing closed and open circuits. I was volunteered with Mr. Mike, the bus driver, and a student volunteer to demonstrate closed circuits. He had a lightning rod and a light bulb. When we all touched each other’s wrist the lightbulb worked. When we let go, it turned off. When we touched a finger, we got shocked because the current was still traveling through. The students of course loved seeing the adults demonstrate science.

The students were very engaged and willing to learn. The Priority for Service (PFS) students were given extra attention during pull out tutoring sessions throughout the day with Jessica Young, Graves County tutor and instructional assistant.

Another wonderful aspect of their program involved parents, who was invited to take part in the camp each week. The day I was there Maria talked to the parents about home safety. The parents really enjoyed learning during this time, and it allowed Maria to practice a mini-lesson that may be used for teaching OSY students.

Gaby Acree, advocate/recruiter from Mayfield Independent, and Eva Rodriguez and Maria Cruz, advocate/recruiters from Graves County, did an excel-

lent job working together and organizing a unique summer program for their students.

I really enjoyed my visit to Graves and Mayfield’s Migrant Summer Camp. I can’t wait to go back and visit them again next year!



The science guy, Jason Lyndsey showing the migrant students that even though we cannot see air, it really is there!

# Welcome the newest recruiters that were trained on May 29.

Minerva Green: Hart County  
Mitchell Ash: Hardin County  
Maria Diaz: Madison County  
Scott Turner: Scott County  
Fiorella Chavez: Somerset Independent

Israel Vargas, Logan County  
Macie Dye, Logan County  
Colby Hall, Pulaski County  
Lisette Reyes, Hardin County

## Important Dates to Remember

**August 24-28, 2015**, outside Re-Interviews  
**September 15-18, 2015**, Fall Academy Lexington  
**October 6-8, 2015**, 2015 National ID&R Forum, Louisville  
**October 17, 2015** State PAC Frankfort, KY  
**November 9-10, 2015** Title I Conference, Pike County  
**April 24-27, 2016** NASDME, San Diego, California



Marley Flores, the Western Region Recruiter had a baby boy! His name is "Iker Eliel Reyes" He was born Wednesday, May 27, 2015 at 1:38pm. He weighed 7lbs 8oz. And 21in. long

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