



# Dreamer News



Newsletter written by Berenice Corchado, Iris Dreamer at ODECE

Summer 2015

## High School Students Intern at CU Boulder with the “I Have a Dream Foundation of Boulder County”

The CU-Boulder partnership with the “I Have a Dream” Foundation of Boulder County was established in 1990. The partnership gave nine high school students the opportunity to be part of a summer internship program at the CU-Boulder campus.

These internships are six-to-eight week experiences with programs such as the Office of Diversity, Equity and Community Engagement, the Pre-Collegiate Development and Outreach Program, the Shakespeare Festival, Public Achievement and CU Conference Services.

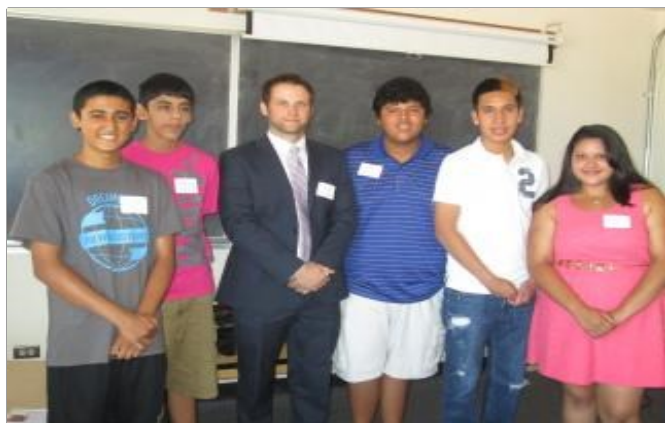
Dreamers learn new skills such as working copy machines, designing flyers, meeting new people and scheduling events. Learning these skills helps Dreamers prepare for college and a professional career.

Internships also help Dreamers develop a strong work ethic, responsibility and organization. Dreamers were expected to arrive to work on time, turn in their time-sheets and get their work done. Dreamers practiced their organizational skills by keeping their work space clean and filing paperwork.

At the beginning of the internships, Dreamers did not know much about the campus or where any of the buildings were located. Dreamers were able to explore the campus throughout the course of their internships. After weeks of working on campus, Dreamers had the ability to help people who were lost find their destinations.

Once a week, Dreamers attend Wednesday Workshops which prepare them for their internships and advance their life skills. Dreamers had the chance to share, exchange and gain knowledge, and have a more efficient and enjoyable experience during their internships. Guest speakers spoke on topics such as living your values and money management, which help Dreamers get a better understanding of the life ahead.

The CU internships have helped the Dreamers get one step closer to success so that they can reach their dreams, one being applying to CU-Boulder and becoming a future Buff, which is something many of the Dreamers are planning to do. The empowering life skills the “I Have a Dream” interns learn over the summer will serve as a strong resource throughout the rest of their lives.



2014 CU Boulder Dreamers

### Table of Contents

The Partnership	1
Dreamers	2
Berenice & IHAD Staff	3
Departments & Workshops	4

### Zair Hoyos



Zair Hoyos is interning at the Leeds school of Business and will be a Junior at Boulder High School. He works in the Office of Diversity Affairs organizing, helping middle school programs and making flyers.

Zair said that his internship feels like he is a part of a big community and that the people are fun to talk to which makes it exciting to work at CU.

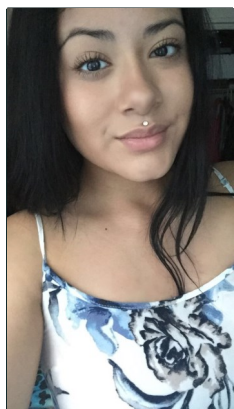
“I am thinking about coming to CU Boulder. It’s a great University with great people and even better opportunities!”

Because of working as an intern at Leeds School of Business, Zair is considering going to business school after graduating high school, proving that these internships not only allow Dreamers to gain new skills, but impacts them in a positive way. They begin thinking about their future life

decisions and career options.

“I was scared that I would mess up on the projects that they gave me, but what I did was stay focused and have confidence,” Zair said. “I was also scared to meet the bosses, but I had to face my fear so I could get the job done. It all turned out very well. I think it helped boost my confidence!”

### Estefany Castro



Estefany Castro is an intern with the Pre-Collegiate Outreach and Development Program and will be a Junior at Fairview High School. This is Estefany’s second internship at CU. In the summer of the 2014 program she was an intern at the Shakespeare Festival .

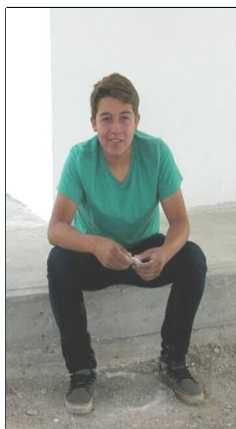
Estefany said the internships have been a fun experience both summers and enjoys what they have to offer. She has learned a lot about the Pre-Collegiate Outreach and Development Program during her internship, which has inspired and motivated her to join the PCDP program next year.

“I really enjoy the people here, the vibe, the opportunities and every part of the campus,” Estefany said.

She said she has learned new computer and communication skills and has gained more work experience.

“I believe more people should get the opportunity to do the “I Have a Dream” internship,” Estefany said. “Not only does it look great on your resume, but it’s awesome experience for the future.”

### Abraham Lopez



Abraham “Abe” Meza, is interning at the International English Center and will be a sophomore at Boulder High School.

Abe helps the International English Center by organizing office tasks and interacting with diverse groups which he said is his favorite part of his internship.

Abe said, “ Some days I had a lot of work, but I just did it!”

“It’s all exciting,” he said. “There’s something new to learn every day.”

Abe said he had a hard time meeting new people, but with time and confidence he was able to get over his fear and make friends. Although working with the International English Center is not his first paying job, his CU internship is nothing like his previous jobs.

“I have never been in such a professional and educated environment for a job,” he said. “My CU internship, like no other job, has really taught me the importance of responsibility.”

## Berenice Corchado

My name is Berenice Corchado and I will be a Junior at Boulder High School. I am an intern at the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Community Engagement. The CU internship this summer was an unfamiliar experience for me. Coming in I felt out of place and even though I love being social and making everyone laugh I was shy getting to know everyone.

My first impression coming into the office was, “Wow, everyone is so focused and works so hard.” I was afraid, everyone seemed like hard working robots, but I was wrong. With time I saw that everyone was human just like me and laughed just like me. Pretty soon I was able to say “Good morning!” or “Hello!” and felt comfortable in the office.

I spent a lot of time with Hayley Sanchez and Emmanuel (Manni) Melgoza who would help me learn office procedures. They were extremely kind and helpful when I had a question. There were a few times when Hayley, Manni and I would make jokes and laugh, which was fun.

I cannot think of anything I would rather be doing this summer that would have such a big impact on my life and my future. Some skills I learned were how to use Publisher, and I got better at introducing myself and better at typing. I learned how to fill out a timesheet which will be useful for all future jobs.

Thanks to this experience, I am now more sure than ever that I would love to become a proud CU Buff in the future because I love the opportunities, people and environment the University has to offer. This experience is something I will remember for a long time and I would do it again, without a doubt!



## Arielle Del Rosario

Arielle Del Rosario is a College Coordinator and began working with “I Have a Dream Foundation of Boulder County” in 2014. She is a tremendous help to the Dreamers during their CU internships. Arielle motivates the Dreamers and believes they should take advantage of the great opportunities available to them.

“I Have a Dream helps our students’ futures by providing experience in the professional world while gaining skills,” she said.



Arielle said that “I Have a Dream” internships serve Dreamers by providing them with skills such as communication, initiative, and professionalism.

Arielle said she is proud of the Dreamers and the amount of initiative they take pursuing and excelling in their internships.

“Taking the time to tailor their resumes, practice mock interviews (and meeting) with hosts shows that our students are taking ownership of their futures and taking this opportunity seriously,” she said.

Arielle said that the Dreamers realized these summer internships are a good opportunity for building a positive image of themselves and for building their network.

## Dan Sikkink-Johnson

Dan Sikkink-Johnson is the Director of College and Career Programs and began working with the “I Have a Dream” Foundation of Boulder County in 2010.



Dan assists Dreamers pursuing an internship over the summer because it exposes them to a professional work environment and introduces them to the skills necessary to thrive in the workforce, he said.

“Dreamers learn reasonability, time management, professional communication, money management and many other skills,” Dan said.

Dan is proud of the Dreamers because he says the hosts rave about how great the Dreamers are.

“Every year everyone is impressed with the students and the work that they do,” he said. “I’m always impressed at the variety of work that our interns on campus do and how many different projects they are able to take on in such a short timeframe.”

## ODECE

The Office of Diversity, Equity, and Community Engagement works to achieve the University's commitment to inclusive excellence and uphold it as a priority across the campus. The office fosters CU-Boulder's vision for a diverse campus climate and works with students, faculty, and staff to implement the campus diversity plan. Programs and activities are sponsored by ODECE to engage the campus and community members in valuing common experiences and celebrating differences.

### Christopher Pacheco

Christopher Pacheco is the director for the Pre-Collegiate Development and Outreach Program a former board member of the "I Have a Dream" Foundation of Boulder County.

Chris said it is important for the Dreamers to interact with professionals who work with first generation students and students of color.



"It's very helpful to have an extra person working on projects that would otherwise be delayed," he said.

Chris said he enjoys seeing college students interacting and working together with the Dreamers.

"Dreamers also bring new energy into the office and

remind us why we do the work we do."

He believes it is important for Dreamers to take advantage of these internships because they develop professional skills, such as networking and improving communication.

### "I Have a Dream" Foundation of Boulder County

"I Have a Dream" was created to motivate and empower low-income, first generation and underrepresented high school students. The Dreamers work to achieve educational career goals. For many years, the "I Have a Dream" Foundation has helped reduce high school drop-out rates and has reduced the cycle of poverty. Dreamers receive tuition assistance through scholarships to go to college and to transform their dreams into a successful reality. Dreamers get the academic help they need and attend fun and educational field trips so they experience new opportunities that will help them be on their way to meeting successful and professional career goals and dreams.

## Dreamers and Departments

**Estefany Castro** - Pre-Collegiate Development Program

**Berenice Corchado** - ODECE

**Zair Hoyos** - Leed's Business School

**Denisse Martinez** - Conference Services

**Abe Meza** - International English Center

**Marlen Ramirez** - Shakespeare Festival

**Paloma Robles** - Transportation

**Alex Rocha** - Transportation

**Fatima Rodriguez** - Public Achievement

## Wednesday Workshops

- "Campus Tour" with Chris Pacheco and Hayley Sanchez
- "Effective Time Management" with Arielle Del Rosario
- "Living you Values" with Jesus Sanchez
- "Basic Money Sense" with Niomi Williams
- "Internship Check-in" with Dan Sikkink-Johnson and Arielle Del Rosario
- "Public Speaking" with Dan Sikkink-Johnson

Wednesday Workshops teach Dreamers useful school and life skills that will help them succeed in their internships and help prepare them for college.



Interns at Wednesday Workshops



I Have a Dream®  
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