

CENTRAL CALIFORNIA CONSORTIUM

CCC HOSTS THE SECRETARY'S HISPANIC ADVISORY COUNCIL

BY LILY RAMOS



The Central California Consortium (CCC) hosted the Secretary's Hispanic Advisory Council (SHAC) the week of August 26-28, 2003. The SHAC was developed to make recommendations and assist the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture, Ann Veneman, on decisions which effect Hispanics. The purpose of the SHAC visit was to learn more about the national award winning CCC and hear the needs of rural underserved Hispanic communities in the San Joaquin Valley.

The SHAC began their "Show Me Trip" on the morning of August 26, 2003, where they visited CCC partners and were able to see the program in action. The first stop was at the CSU Fresno campus to meet with the CCC, Forest Service, Farm AG Service, CSU Fresno staff, students, program directors, a USDA Liaison, and Hispanic Serving Institutions.

The next stop was a visit with Mayor Victor P. Lopez in

the City of Orange Cove. The Mayor led a tour of his city including stops at the Julia Lopez Day Care Center, the newly developed housing, and the Victor P. Lopez Community Center. During the luncheon, the Mayor greeted the SHAC with live Mariachi and a Mexican cuisine in the Economic Development Center. The luncheon included community members, business leaders, and elected officials from communities such as Fresno, Orange Cove, Reedley, Sanger, and San Joaquin. These representatives voiced their ideas, needs, and concerns to the SHAC.

The SHAC then visited Reedley High School and met with students who shared their needs including: more scholarships, better water quality, waste water concerns, and job opportunities. The next stop was Reedley Community College, where they were greeted by President Tony Cantu and heard presentations from



SHAC Members and Jim Oftedal at the Forest Service, Sierra National Supervisor's Office in Clovis, CA.



SHAC Co-chair, Humberto Hernandez (left) and CCC partners enjoying student testimonials.



CSU Fresno students share their stories and community concerns with the SHAC.

several students, and had a question and answer session.

The SHAC met twice internally at the Sierra National Forest Supervisor's office in Clovis. The goal of their meeting was to complete their business plan and incorporate ideas and concerns that they had heard from the community, students, and other partners of the CCC.

On August 27, 2003 the SHAC met informally with

CCC partners and CSU Fresno Hispanic Business Association (HBSA) at a dinner banquet.

James Oftedal, Central California Consortium Director, stated, "It was a honor to host the SHAC in my community. It makes me feel good when I can showcase students, parents, educational institutions and other partners to show that the CCC embraces diversity in our community."

GENERATION GREEN CAL EXPO

LEADERSHIP CAMP

BY SILVIA OLVERA



“ My role at the state fair was giving out information to people especially children about fire and environmental safety. My most rewarding experience was seeing the kids paying attention and knowing that I can make a difference in their lives.”

- Jose Zavala
Generation Green
Club President



"My role at the state fair was working at every station and explaining precautions to children. I learned how to work with a team.”

- Erica Maldonado
Generation Green



Generation Green students with Forest Service employees at the State Fair.

During the month of August, thirty-one high school students from San Joaquin Valley High Schools including Reedley, Parlier, Duncan, Roosevelt, Sunnyside and Edison attended the 5th Annual Generation Green Leadership Camp in Sacramento. Students worked along side Forest Service employees for ten days staffing the Forest Service exhibit, Camp Smokey; an environmental education area where kids learn about fire safety. The students interacted with children and adults in English, Spanish, and Hmong. The students also learned about different Forest Service careers and gained valuable leadership and communication skills.

Students were selected based on a complete application, which included a resume, personal statement, and a letter of recommendation. They stayed at McClellan Air Force Base in dorm living facilities throughout their work experience. They were divided into two groups and worked for ten days each, earning a stipend of \$75/day. Every morning students would wake up for breakfast at 7:00 a.m. and go over the day’s itinerary. They were required to wash and iron their Forest Service uniform and be ready for work by 10:00 a.m., while working students taught the public about fire safety, natural resource management, and

what to do in case of an emergency. The public also enjoyed a puppet show about environmental conservation and the importance of recycling. The public was given Camp Smokey passports and directed to different stations, where the Generation Green students educated them about a particular theme. After completing all 8 stations, each participant received a Smokey Bear handkerchief and free face painting.

The Generation Green students would pitch in and order a family style dinner and shared in the clean up duties. During the evenings, all the students called home, kept journals, completed homework and performed leadership activities.

While in Sacramento, the students used their time off to visit the state capitol, meet elected officials, and learn about the state government and legislative processes.

The CCC would like to send a special thank you to those who served as chaperones including: Marty Oftedal, Larry Iwasaki, Midori Iwasaki, Arnold Sanchez, Bill Otani, Dirk Charley, Keith Choate, Kimo Kimokeo, Martha Ayala, Sandra Macias, Teri Drivas, and Mandy Vance. A special thank you also goes to Ray Quintanar, Barbara Rebiskie, John Marunowski, and Joe Reyes.



Generation Green President, Jose Zavala teaches children attending the State Fair about Fire Safety.



Generation Green students and a Forest Service employee collaborate on a puppet show for children.



“My role at the state fair was educating children on fire safety and how to keep the forest safe. I learned to communicate better with kids and adults.”

- Eliana Olvera
Generation Green



“My most rewarding experience was when a little girl gave me a hug because she liked the butterfly that I drew on her cheek.”

- Lorena Quezada
Generation Green



DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

The CCC was very busy this quarter. It was very exciting to be involved in the State Fair again. Working with the students was great, we were able to watch them build leadership skills day by day. They are truly our future leaders. We were also privileged to host the Secretary's Hispanic Council in our community. I was proud to showcase the exciting things that we are doing in our community with students, parents, educational institutions and leaders in the underserved community.

- James Oftedal
CCC Director



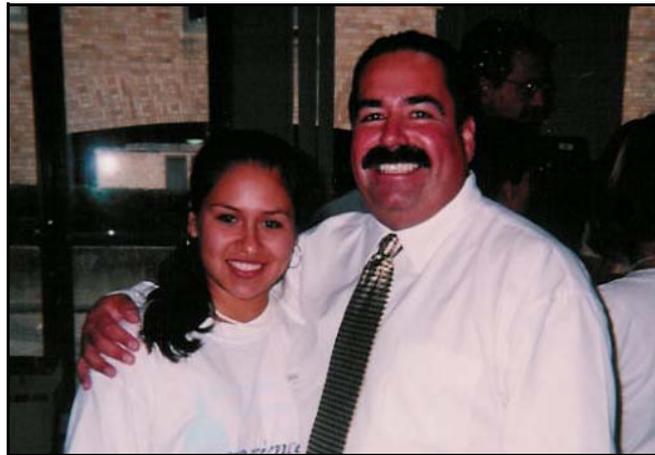
CCC DIRECTOR SERVES AS INSPIRATIONAL SPEAKER FOR LATINO YOUTH IN D.C.

BY LILY RAMOS

On July 31, 2003 Jim Oftedal (CCC Director) served as an inspirational speaker in Washington D.C. for the Bert Corona Leadership Conference. He spoke to Hispanic youth from the Modesto, CA area.

Jim conducted a workshop which focused on three key components to help students achieve success. These components included networking techniques, adversity, and follow up. The workshop lasted about an hour and a half.

Jim encouraged the Hispanic youth from the central valley to stay in school and set goals for higher education. He then introduced them to his Forest Service program called the CCC. He showed them a movie called "From Farm to Forest" which motivated students to follow their dreams and set high goals.



Jim Oftedal with Priscilla Y. Ambrocio, a Central Valley California high school student at the Bert Corona Leadership Conference.

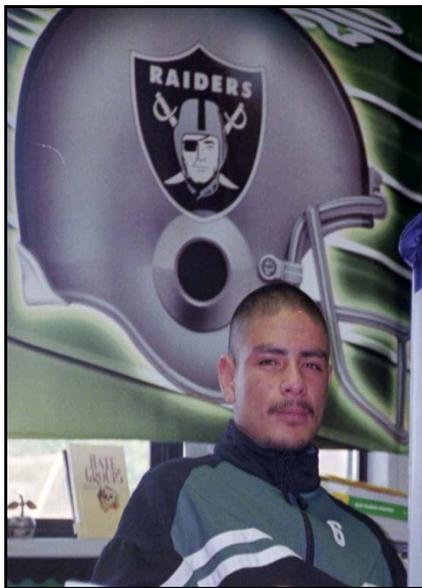
Jim talked to the students about the many opportunities that are ahead of them. He encouraged students to consider careers within USDA and the Forest Service. He stressed to the students that education will be the key to their success.

“Education is a valuable tool and the best thing is that it

can never be taken away from students,” stated James Oftedal.

Jim received an award for serving as a speaker from the National Association of Hispanic Federal Executives and the Hispanic American Cultural Efforts.

A TRIBUTE TO A FALLEN HERO
BY OSCAR HERNANDEZ



Pierre Pizano 1985-2003

Pierre Pizano was born July 1, 1985 in México in Morelia, Michoacán. When Pierre was only six months old, he and his family moved to Parlier, CA, where he attended Jefferson Elementary.

It was during his years in Kindergarten that Pierre made his career choice. He gathered some pine needles in front of the apartment complex and started them on fire. He ran excitedly, grabbed the water hose and put the fire out. When his father confronted him he simply said, "I am the fireman of the house."

He attended Grant middle school and was part of the Meadowbrook Jr. High Club that offered Bible studies and sports activities. He attended Reedley High School where he was part of NJROTC, Link Crew, Generation Green, Art Club and Reedley Pirate Junior Varsity Soccer Team. Pierre graduated this past June.

If Pierre had free time, he would be working on a woodshop project. If he was watching football, his team was the Raiders. If he was

watching soccer, his team was Los Pumas. And if he had a choice in a meal, it was spicy shrimp. His favorite music groups were Los Temerarios and Los Bukis.

Pierre considered joining the Marines after High School but it was a firefighter that he had always dreamed of becoming one day.

He connected with the United States Forest Service and worked this past summer in Eureka. He returned excited, focused and determined to realize his career.

On September 9, 2003 Pierre lost his life in an automobile accident. He leaves behind his mother, Maria Carmen Camargo, his father Carlos Pizano Muñoz, his brothers Carlos Jr. and Sergio, his sisters, Michelle, Vianie, Suzette, Nathashly, Kiara, and April and his paternal grandmother, Maria de Jesus Pizano Muñoz. Pierre will be missed by all.

"Pierre chose a career where he would risk his own life to save others. May his legacy of joy, selflessness, devotion, loyalty, respect and kindness live in all who knew and loved him."

- Oscar Hernandez



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