

STEAM dream!

By Ximena Delgado

Have you ever wanted to learn more about science, technology, engineering, art, and math all in one place? Well if so, a STEAM conference might be for you!

Our journalism team will be attending the Fresno State annual STEAM Conference at Fresno State University, in Fresno, California on Saturday, April 5, 2025. Our goal is to interview leaders who are professionals in the STEAM field as well as both participate and learn more about the programs and jobs in the STEAM field.

The acronym STEAM stands for science, technology, engineering, the arts, and math. All of these subjects are combined and used by scientists.

One of the workshops that will be presented at the Fresno STEAM conference this year is job opportunities in the engineering field. What is engineering? Engineering



The Downing Planetarium at Fresno State. This is the 30-ft. hemispherical dome that can display astronomical shows.



This is one of the jobs of a Civil Engineer. The engineers in the photo are working at a construction site.

involves problem solving and the use of scientific and mathematical concepts. There are different types of engineering fields. At the STEAM conference, the engineering workshop will discuss the fields of civil engineering, computer engineering, and electrical engineering. Civil engineering is a career that involves designing, building, and maintaining the physical environment. Civil engineers plan, design, and supervise the construction and maintenance of building and infrastructure projects. Electrical and computer engineers combine the two fields to design, develop, and maintain the hardware and software components of computer systems as well as computer-controlled equipment. In the electrical and computer engineering portion of the workshop, students will have the chance to use Micro Bit microcomputers for a hands-on coding opportunity.

In addition to learning about all of the unique careers in the STEAM field at the Fresno State STEAM Conference, there will be an opportunity to learn information about the CAMP program. The CAMP program, which stands for college assistance migrant program, provides students with assistance in things like college orientation, academics, personal and financial issues, as well as help with any concerns that

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CAMP for STEAM

By Camila Garcia, Haillie Cardenas, Maria Morado, Rafael Aguilar, Faustino Olea, Alisson Hernandez, Daniel Fraga, and Mr. Romo

On Saturday, April 5, 2025, Jefferson Elementary’s Migrant Club had the opportunity to participate in Fresno State’s STEAM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) conference. Under the guidance of Fresno State’s CAMP (College Assistance Migrant Program), Jefferson Elementary’s Migrant Club navigated through many engaging workshops.

Our experience began with a check-in and morning refreshments. We each received a Fresno State t-shirt and a grab-bag filled with school supplies. The orange juice and pastries were a much needed source of fuel to start our day. We began our journey with a pre-evaluation. The “before” section was an eye-opener that made us aware of our limited experience with STEAM. It was at this time that we met the CAMP staff and were briefed about college readiness. CAMP provides support for students, in their first year of college, if they are from migrant or seasonal farmworker backgrounds.



Josemaria Garcia

Next, we separated into two groups. Our group journeyed west to the Downing Planetarium. Once there, we were introduced to Dr. White, who informed us what the Downing Planetarium had to offer. He explained how the 73-seat Star Theater, with a 30-foot hemispherical dome, features a Minolta MS-10 star projector that can fill the entire dome ceiling with a movie. As the lights dimmed to dark, we sat back and were immersed in the astronomy show. The thousands of colors blending with heart-thumping sounds kept us intrigued as we journeyed through the many galaxies.

Our next workshop was held right outside of the Downing Planetarium. This one was hosted by the Fresno State Chemistry Club. The staff was very knowledgeable and engaging. They used many interactive activities. For example, one activity focused on gravitational force. In this activity, we held steel rods that exerted the same amount of force as gravity, but because it was

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Finding our voice through journalism

By Kimberly Penaloza, Yandeli Calderon, Genesis Perez, Miguel Ibarra, and Josemaria Garcia

We never imagined we’d become journalists. We didn’t expect to write stories, conduct interviews, or see our work published. But thanks to the Migrant Journalism Program offered by the Tulare County Office of Education and led by Ms. RubyAnn Alvarado at Kennedy Elementary, that’s exactly what happened.

As migrant students, our journeys often involve moving from place to place, adjusting to new schools, and helping our families. We face challenges such as language barriers, limited resources, and sometimes feeling disconnected from the communities we join. Despite these obstacles, the Migrant Journalism Program gave us the chance to turn those experiences into something powerful, our voice.



Jefferson Elementary’s Migrant Club members Rafael Aguilar and Faustino Olea participating in Fresno State’s CAMP STEAM Conference’s automotive engineering race.



Jefferson Elementary Migrant Club from Dinuba, at the 2025 Fresno State CAMP STEAM Conference, Camila Garcia, Haillie Cardenas, Maria Morado, Rafael Aguilar, Faustino Olea, and Mr. Romo.

“This program has helped me connect with others who share similar experiences and made me feel like I’m part of something important,” said Yandeli Calderon.

From Students to Storytellers

When we started, we spent our afternoons after school learning all about how newspapers are made. We looked at how stories are chosen, how headlines are written, and how articles are organized to keep readers interested. We researched real newspapers, studied their structure, and even practiced writing our own leads.

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Empowering future educators: meet Rosalba Marquez, Migrant Mini Corps program coordinator

By Edwin Cervantes Galicia, Emiliano Gonzalez Villalaz, Ruby De Leon, and Fernanda De Leon

Have you ever wondered who helps students behind the scenes — and helps future teachers learn their craft? That’s what Rosalba Marquez does as the program coordinator for the California Migrant Mini Corps Program.

She works with college students who want to become teachers and places them in schools to support migrant students whose families move to follow agricultural work. If you know Miss Ibarra or Miss Alarcon at Freedom Elementary, they’re part of the program, too!

Her Roots: From the Fields to the Classroom

Ms. Marquez’s journey is inspiring. She grew up in a big family with nine siblings, and started working in the fields with her parents at a young age — picking oranges, grapes, and other crops. Her family worked hard to support each other, and she learned the importance of teamwork, dedication, and education early in life.

Later, she became a college student in Porterville and joined the Migrant Mini Corps Program as a tutor. She tutored for five years before the program decided she was ready for more, so she earned her teaching credential and became a bilingual teacher. Her dedication eventually led her to a leadership role as the program coordinator, where she now mentors others to become educators.

What She Does Now

Ms. Marquez’s days are filled with purpose. She visits multiple school sites, including elementary and middle schools, to support tutors, collaborate with educators, and oversee instructional quality. On weekends, she teaches college-level seminars to equip Mini Corps tutors with tools and strategies for supporting migrant

students.

She loves seeing growth — both in the students being supported and in the tutors learning how to teach. “It gives me hope,” she says. “I want to see these tutors become teachers and reach their goals.”

Why She Cares

Ms. Marquez says the most important investment in the program isn’t money — it’s time, care, and connection. She believes in building strong relationships between teachers and students and creating community among tutors and staff.

She is especially proud of the community she’s built through the program. Her work extends beyond the classroom, from helping students academically to building relationships with parents and families.

More Than a Career — A Calling

In addition to her professional accomplishments, Ms. Marquez is known for her warm personality, love for literature, and commitment to lifelong learning.

Her most significant source of pride is her family, and her greatest fear is not being able to support them during times of illness. This profoundly human perspective is part of what makes her such a compassionate leader.

Looking Ahead

Ms. Marquez is not just developing teachers — she’s nurturing a culture of resilience, hope, and community service. Her story reminds us that education can transform lives for students, future teachers, and entire communities.

Meet Miss Ibarra: a future teacher helping students learn

By Edwin Cervantes Galicia, Emiliano Gonzalez Villalaz, Ruby De Leon, and Fernanda De Leon

Have you ever struggled in school? If you have, you’re not alone; help is always nearby! At Freedom Elementary School, we are lucky to have Miss Ibarra, our Migrant Mini Corps tutor. She started assisting migratory students in January 2025, and she’s already making a big difference.

Miss Ibarra attends California State University, Fresno (also called Fresno State), where she is studying to become a teacher. She also attends the College of the Sequoias. Although her school is in a different area, the main office where she works is located in Butte County.

She became passionate about teaching during her senior year of high school, when she got the chance to help in a third-grade classroom. She enjoyed working with the students, which helped her become a teacher.

Through the Mini Corps program, Miss Ibarra works with migratory students who often move because of their families’ jobs. Some of these students are still learning English, and others are trying to catch up to their grade level. Miss Ibarra helps them one-on-one with reading, writing, math, and more.

She visits our campus on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays to work with students who need extra support. She aims to help students do better in school and feel more confident. She says one of the best parts of her job is getting to know the students and learning about their different backgrounds.



Clockwise from top left: Edwin Cervantes Galicia, Emiliano Gonzalez Villalaz, Fernanda De Leon, and Ruby De Leon.



Miss Ibarra also enjoys working with other future teachers in the program. Together, they share ideas and help each other grow. Before joining Mini Corps, she didn’t feel connected to her community. She says, “I serve not only my community, but the surrounding communities too.”

Miss Ibarra is learning, growing, and helping others every day. We are fortunate to have her on our campus to assist us in our school work!

Estudiantes del Programa Migrante Asisten a Conferencia STEAM en Fresno State

Crédito de autor: Gael Gaspar Candelario

El pasado sábado 5 de abril, los alumnos del Programa Migrante tuvimos la valiosa oportunidad de asistir a la Conferencia STEAM (Ciencia, Tecnología, Ingeniería y Matemáticas) en la Universidad Estatal de Fresno. Durante esta experiencia, aprendimos sobre distintas disciplinas profesionales como ingeniería, ciencias planetarias, ciencia ambiental y física. Además, disfrutamos de una divertida actividad recreativa: una sesión de boliche.

La conferencia fue organizada por el programa CAMP (College Assistance Migrant Program), una iniciativa diseñada para apoyar a estudiantes migrantes en su camino hacia la educación superior. Fundado en 1981 en Fresno State. El programa de CAMP ayuda a jóvenes a ingresar y permanecer en la universidad, ofreciendo recursos académicos, financieros y personales. Actualmente, este programa se encuentra activo en distintas regiones como el condado de Merced, Tulare, Monterey y Fresno.

Una de las actividades más destacadas fue la visita al planetario. Su propósito es educar al público sobre el espacio, la astronomía y las ciencias planetarias a través de proyecciones visuales en una cúpula envolvente. Estas presentaciones suelen estar acompañadas de narraciones y explicaciones científicas, lo cual ofrece una experiencia inmersiva, entretenida y educativa que facilita la comprensión de temas complejos del universo.

La ciencia ambiental se enfoca en el estudio de la interacción entre los sistemas naturales y las sociedades humanas, con el objetivo de comprender cómo manejarlos de manera sostenible. Esta disciplina investiga el impacto de las actividades humanas sobre los ecosistemas, proponiendo soluciones que favorezcan tanto al medio ambiente como al desarrollo social y económico.

La física es la ciencia que estudia los principios fundamentales del universo. A través de la observación y la experimentación, busca explicar los fenómenos naturales, desde las partículas subatómicas hasta las galaxias. Su objetivo es descubrir leyes universales que regulen el comportamiento de la materia y la energía.

La ingeniería aplica el conocimiento científico y técnico para resolver problemas del mundo real. Esta disciplina abarca el diseño, construcción, mantenimiento y mejora de sistemas, estructuras, dispositivos y procesos. Su impacto es clave para el avance tecnológico y el bienestar de la sociedad.

La experiencia de asistir a la Conferencia STEM fue inspiradora y enriquecedora para todos los estudiantes del Programa Migrante. No solo ampliamos nuestros conocimientos sobre carreras en ciencia y tecnología, sino que también descubrimos nuevas posibilidades para nuestro futuro académico y profesional. Actividades como esta nos motivan a seguir soñando en grande y nos recuerdan que, con esfuerzo y apoyo, la educación superior está al alcance de todos.

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students may have when applying for college or during their college experience. The Fresno State CAMP program is also designed to include as many components of STEAM subjects into its programs. The CAMP program helps incoming freshman students who are from migrant or seasonal farmworker families.

Some of the other featured workshops at the Fresno STEAM conference we plan to attend in April are the planetarium which features a 74-seat theatre for viewing astronomy shows along with a 30 foot dome screen in order to enhance the space experience. In addition, the plan is to also explore the earth and environmental science building where there is an educational exhibit and gift shop.

Migrant students, who are enrolled and have been attending their migrant math or journalism classes during the regular school year along



Janice Pearson



Ximena Delgado



Genesis Perez

with their teachers, were invited to this year’s STEAM conference. The students were selected from the Dinuba, Earlimart, Exeter, Farmersville, Pixley, Tulare, Visalia, Woodlake, and Woodville districts.

If for any reason the Fresno State STEAM Conference is unavailable, the Tulare County Office of Education (TCOE), in Visalia, California, holds a similar STEAM Expo that is free to the public. This year’s event at the TCOE location was held on Saturday, March 1, 2025 in the building’s conference center. Some of the workshops at that event included many that are similar to the upcoming Fresno State STEAM Conference that our journalism team will be attending in April. For example, some of the workshops included at the TCOE event in Visalia were, science and engineering, planetarium shows, robotics, art projects, a cardboard challenge, community exhibitors, and food vendors. If you have ever wanted to experience hands-on activities while learning about a career in the STEAM field, attending a STEAM conference near you might be the answer!

Our Voice..Continued from page 1

We didn’t just learn how to write, we learned how to write with purpose. We asked ourselves: What makes someone want to read this? Why does this story matter? It made us think deeper and helped us choose topics we cared about.

We also spent time learning interviewing skills; how to ask questions that go beyond “yes” or “no” answers, how to make people feel comfortable, and how to really listen.

“This program has taught me more than just how to write an article,” said Miguel Ibarra. “Now I know how to ask the right questions and put a story together from start to finish.”

Real Skills for the Real World

We’ve taken on the roles of editors, photographers, designers, and reporters. We’ve written about our families, culture, and school. We’ve interviewed classmates, teachers, and community members, taken photos, written captions, and even covered school events.

Seeing our work shared with others has made us proud and more confident in our abilities.

Through the Migrant Journalism Program, we’ve also learned how to meet deadlines, work in teams, speak in front of others, and think critically. These are real-world skills that we know will help us not just in school, but in life.

“This made me feel like I can actually go to college and do something I love,” shared Kimberly Penaloza.

Dreaming Bigger for Our Futures

This program has changed the way we see ourselves and our futures. We’ve met professional journalists, asked them questions about their work, and realized that media and communication careers are possible for us too.

For many of us, college used to feel like a faraway dream. Now, it feels like something we can reach.

“Before this program, I never thought college was something I could reach. Now I know it’s possible,” said Josemaria Garcia.

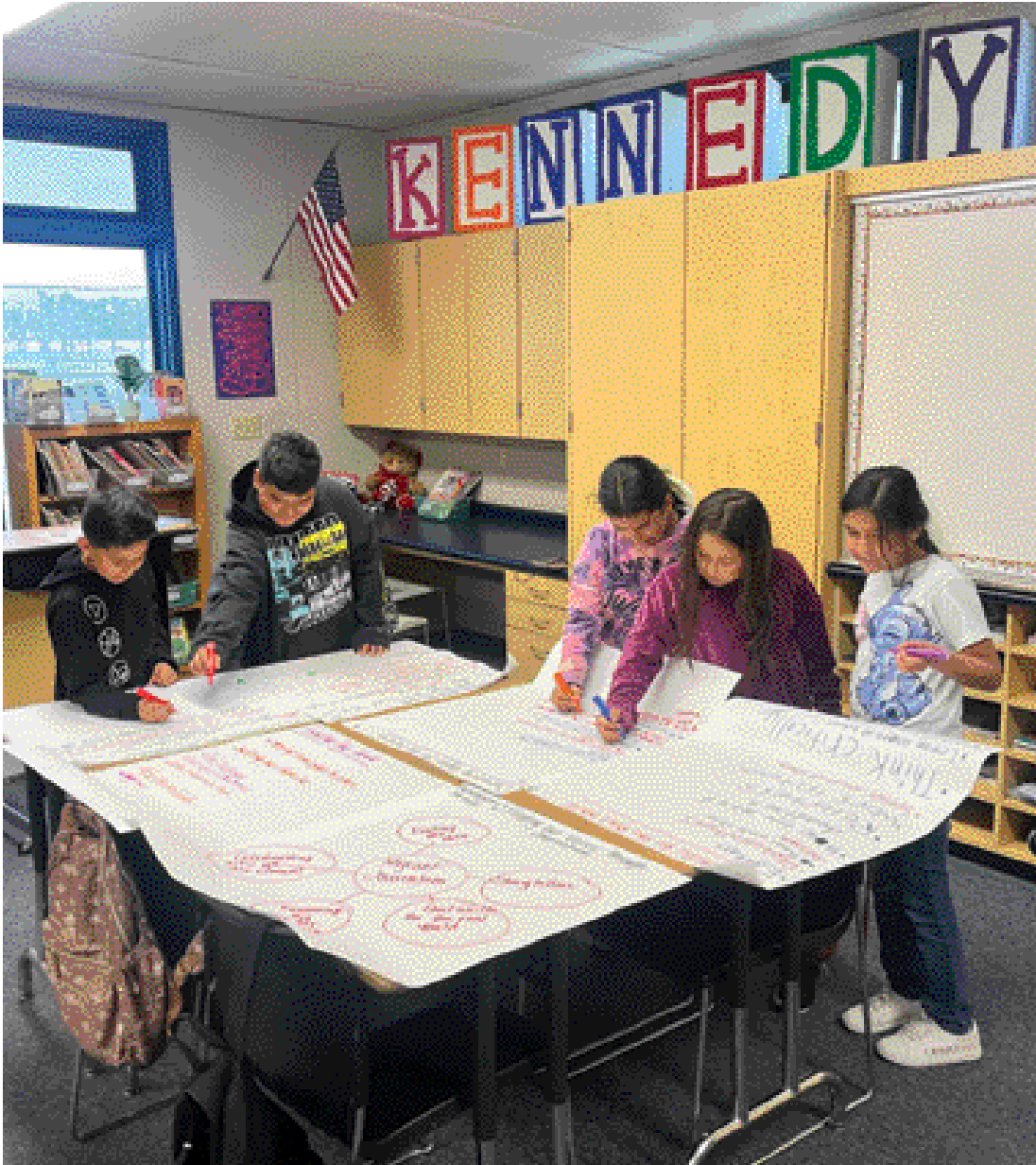
Celebrating Who We Are

“We’re not just telling stories, we’re showing our strength,” said Genesis Perez.

One of the biggest things we’ve learned is that being a migrant student is something to be proud of. Our backgrounds, our challenges, and our cultures make us who we are. And now, we know how to share that with the world.

This program reminded us that our stories matter and that we have the power to tell them. We’re just getting started, and we can’t wait to keep writing about what matters most to us.

Thanks to this program, we now know that our voices belong in every space.



These are photos that are related to the Earth and Environmental Science Workshop.

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isolated, it felt heavy. We also got to twirl the different rods that made our minds feel a disconnect from our arms. In addition, we got to lie on a bed of nails. This felt awkward because at any moment, we could have been pierced, but we never were. The staff also demonstrated the properties of frozen air. For example, a tennis ball was placed into a special canister that housed the frozen air. The tennis ball was then removed and dropped from a height of 4 ft. The tennis ball shattered like glass. Next, a racquet ball and an onion were used. Much to our astonishment, the same results occurred. With each repeated drop, the racquet ball and onion broke into smaller and smaller pieces. As the workshop came to a close, the staff surprised us by making ice cream with the remaining frozen air.

With the taste of fresh ice cream, the next activity could not have been better planned. It was time to go bowling and have lunch. Upon entering the Fresno State bowling alley, we were warmly greeted by Timeout, the official Fresno State mascot. Much to our surprise, our lunch was catered by Chick-fil-A. This was a pleasant treat because neither of us had ever eaten Chick-fil-A. Another coincidence was that neither of us had ever been bowling. However, this new experience did not make us hesitate one bit. We ate all of our delicious food and bowled until the last minute. Our only regret was that we didn’t make time to take a picture with Timeout.

Lastly, we made our final journey to the engineering department. There, we were greeted by Hernan Maldonado. He shared a presentation that explained the many career opportunities an engineer could explore. In fact, there were so many that he began to list them in alphabetical order. His presentation made for a good segue to our first activity of designing a vehicle. Each group was given a car kit that we had to assemble. The assembly process created many challenges as we had to factor in different variables, such as friction and balance. Once the vehicles were assembled, we took them to the hallway to race. The race consisted of two categories, speed and distance. Time didn’t allow for everyone to finish testing their vehicles for distance, but we were definitely in the top five.

As the STEAM Conference was coming to an end, we headed back to our initial check-in classroom. Once there, we ended our journey with a post-evaluation. Unlike the previous “before” section, the “after” section seemed somewhat familiar as we were now aware of what STEAM had to offer. At this time, CAMP outreach recruiter Armando Santos reiterated how CAMP provides college readiness, financial aid support, academic resources, and personal guidance for migrant students. We discussed the different career options in engineering, physics, environmental science, and how they connect to STEAM. To wrap it all up, the CAMP staff held a drawing, and each student won a prize. There were many things we learned, but we all agreed on what we learned most was how lucky we were to attend this conference.

MEET OUR JOURNALISTS

Tulare City School District



Genesis Perez
Grade 5
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Janice Pearson
Teacher
Heritage Elementary



Ximena Delgado
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Dinuba Unified School District



RubyAnn Alvarado
Teacher
JFK Elementary



Josemaria Garcia
Grade 6
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Miguel Ibarra
Grade 3
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Yandeli Calderon
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Servero Romo
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Allison Hernandez
Grade 5
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Camila Garcia
Grade 6
Jefferson Elementary



Daniel Fraga
Grade 6
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Faustino Olea
Grade 6
Jefferson Elementary



Hallie Cardenas
Grade 5
Jefferson Elementary



Maria Morado
Grade 6
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Rafael Aguilar
Grade 5
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Farmersville Unified School District



Edwin Cervantes Galicia
Grade 5
Freedom Elementary



Emiliano Gonzalez Villalaz
Grade 5
Freedom Elementary



Fernanda De Leon
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Gael Gaspar Candelario
Grade 7
Freedom Elementary



Ruby De Leon
Grade 5
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