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Valdosta State has long recognized the contribution the migrant community makes in the quality of life in South Georgia and North Florida. The university has taken an active part in the wellness of this community by delivering health care and counseling services through Migrant Farmworker Clinic, LLC in Lake Park, Georgia. Students collect food and clothing for migrant families and host campus events that bring awareness to various social issues within the community. Nursing, social work, and sociology students volunteer to meet a variety of needs ranging from basic case management for a ordable medicine to referrals for further medical appointments and educational materials to counseling for more advanced mental health needs such as substance abuse, depression, and anxiety.

Now, Valdosta State is able to expand its reach to the migrant community by o ering workers and their families the opportunity to receive a college education. In September, VSU earned a \$2.1 million competitive grant from the United States Department of Education O ce of Migrant Education. The grant awards the university \$424,833 per year for ve years to establish and maintain a College Assistance Migrant Program (CAMP) on campus. These funds will be used to identify, recruit, and retain students who are migratory or seasonal farmworkers—or their children—and build a bridge to higher education.

Students accepted into CAMP will receive scholarships covering the cost of room and board, tuition and required fees, academic supplies, and necessary transportation, as well as a small monthly stipend. Additionally, they will have access to a host of support services including tutoring, mentoring and counseling. The program will serve a total of 25 students each year and give them the tools necessary to be a productive and successful member of the university throughout their VSU career.

“As re ected in its mission statement, VSU is committed to meeting the educational needs of the state’s diverse population in order to sustain economic growth and advance the standard of living for everyone,”

said Dr. Anthony Sche er, interim associate vice president of academic a airs and professor in the James L. and Dorothy H. Dewar College of Education and Human Services, and principal investigator on the grant. “The university has demonstrated this commitment by actively exploring innovative pedagogies and working to enhance its recruitment and student support processes in order to accommodate all students, regardless of their circumstance.”

This was the university’s second attempt at applying for CAMP funding. “We did our homework, we listened to their critiques, and we reapplied. We had to,” said Kerry Morris,



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opportunities this type of program could offer his sister, and he encouraged her to complete her General Education Development degree (GED) and follow him to ABAC for CAMP. Young completed her GED and began attending ABAC as a member of CAMP. Because of the grant, Young was able to live on campus and enjoy college activities as any traditional student would. Once her first two years of the program were complete, CAMP mentors began encouraging her to complete her undergraduate degree. Although she was nervous, she made the decision to transfer to a regional university and complete her undergraduate degree. She then returned to ABAC, where she began her first job working with scholarship programs for Hispanic students. After serving ABAC for eight years, she has now made her way to Valdosta State to serve as the Director of CAMP.

Since securing the grant in August, two students have already been enrolled in the program and are receiving benefits. Young plans to have 25 students enrolled

the program. Camp and she can be found at /ong (mpu)10 w/Langl|TJ ETosep)10 woul/MCID 824 >>BDC taking classes in the fall. To get started with recruitment, she has sought out current VSU students who are eligible to receive benefits from CAMP and educated them on opportunities associated with the grant. By doing this, she hopes to provide support to local students and give them the best college experience possible.

