

# SAF

STUDENT ACTION WITH FARMWORKERS

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## Focus on Migrant Education

### First College Day a Huge Success!

by Lyndsey Beutin

Student Action with Farmworkers began its annual series of College Days this year with a great visit to North Carolina Central University (NCCU) on September 17th. Over 40 migrant high school students from Johnston and Franklin counties traveled to Durham to hear about opportunities in higher education. The day included presentations from professors and administrators at NCCU, prize giveaways, and chorus singing! Through different forums, the students learned about the admission process, financial aid, evening and weekend classes, campus life, and scholarship programs. A panel of current NCCU students from different backgrounds and organizations related their college experiences, gave advice, and answered questions for the migrant students. All of the presenters encouraged the students to stay in school in order to accomplish their long-term goals.

Even though threatening weather led to the cancellation of the campus tour, the brewing storm could not dampen the spirits of the participants. Excited chatter filled the lunch area as students ate, looked at their new college goodies, and discussed their personal options for education beyond high school.

Response to the NCCU College Day was overwhelming. Teachers commented that it was one of the best in which they have participated. The university was thrilled to have students with such diverse perspectives and backgrounds seriously consider attending their school, and the students related their interest by asking questions about scholarships, the admission process, and other college opportunities.

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## El Proyecto Levante

El Proyecto Levante fue iniciado en el 1994 cuando estudiantes voluntarios de SAF reconocieron una falta de buenos modelos en las vidas de los jóvenes migrantes. Cuando hablaban con estos estudiantes, los voluntarios se dieron cuenta que muchos de ellos solo querían salir de la escuela a trabajar cuando tenían la edad. Usando el teatro como gran parte de su programa, los voluntarios animaban a estos jóvenes de terminar la escuela e ir a la universidad.

En el 1997, SAF inició una colaboración con el Programa de Educación para Migrantes (MEP) de Carolina del Norte para desarrollar el liderazgo de los estudiantes migrantes en zonas rurales de N.C. a través de retiros de liderazgo, visitas a las universidades, empoderamiento de jóvenes, y talleres de arte y liderazgo. SAF ha colaborado con MEP para desarrollar los clubes de **Acción, Inspiración y Motivación (AIM)**, de los cuales hay más de 50 en todo el estado.

Las metas del Proyecto Levante:

- Inspirar a los jóvenes migrantes de terminar la escuela
- Proveer maneras para las familias migrantes de participar en la educación de sus niños
- Iniciar dialogo sobre oportunidades de universidades entre jóvenes migrantes y estudiantes de la universidad que son de familias migrantes.

SAF también ha coordinado **Días de Universidad** para más de 2.400 jóvenes migrantes. Vea el artículo arriba para más información sobre estas visitas.

Si Ud. quiere saber más sobre el Proyecto Levante, visítenos en el Internet: [WWW.SAF-UNITE.ORG/PROJECTLEVANTE.HTM](http://WWW.SAF-UNITE.ORG/PROJECTLEVANTE.HTM). (sitio en inglés) O contacte a la Directora del Programa Levante de SAF, Ilda Santiago, a (919) 660-3652. (Se habla español)

## Project Levante

Project Levante was begun in 1994 to fill the void identified by SAF interns who noticed the lack of role models in the lives of migrant students. In talking to students, they found that many had no other goals than to be old enough to quit school and begin work. Using theater as a major component of their program, interns encouraged these youth to finish high school and go to college.

In 1997, SAF's Project Levante began a partnership with the N.C. Migrant Education Program to develop the leadership of migrant youth in rural North Carolina through leadership retreats, tours of colleges and universities, youth empowerment, and art and college preparation workshops. SAF also collaborated with Migrant Education and migrant students to develop **Action Inspiration Motivation (AIM) Clubs**, of which there are now over 50 statewide.

The goals of Project Levante are to:

- Encourage farmworker youth to finish school
- Provide ways for farmworker families to have a greater role in their children's education
- Foster dialogue about college opportunities between farmworker youth and college students from farmworker families

SAF has also coordinated **College Days** for over 2,400 migrant youth. See the article above for more information about our College Day visits.

If you would like to know more about Project Levante, please visit our website at [WWW.SAF-UNITE.ORG/PROJECTLEVANTE.HTM](http://WWW.SAF-UNITE.ORG/PROJECTLEVANTE.HTM) or contact SAF's Migrant Youth Director, Ilda Santiago, at (919) 660-3652.

