

## Reflections from Abraham Garcia about the MANRRS trip to Birmingham, Alabama.

1. **Why did you apply to go on the USDA FATE sponsored trip to Birmingham to attend the MANRRS Conference?** I applied because it was an opportunity to communicate and network with other students from around the world. It was also an opportunity to seek future employment and future graduate schools.

2. **What did you expect to learn from attending this conference?** I expected to learn how to prepare for an interview and to stick out from the rest of the crowd.

3. **What did you actually learn?** I learned the exact same thing I expected to learn, along with deciding what to do in the future after graduating.

4. **Has the experience at the conference changed your career goals? If yes, please explain** I believe that it has changed my career goal just a bit. I was deciding whether to continue to graduate school or to get a job. After a seminar about getting/applying into graduate school, I leaned closer to a job because based off the information told in the seminar I was not prepared.

5. **How has being a participant in the USDA FATE scholarship program helped in pursuing a college education?**

It has helped me significantly, I am not sure where I would be at the moment had I not been a participant in the USDA FATE scholarship program. It has taken away a bit of the stress worrying about finance and let me focus more on my education than taking a job at the same time.

6. **What did you like best about the entire experience?** It has helped me bond with other participants within the program and helped me to communicate better to others and not be afraid to speak up.

7. **What will you tell your fellow USDA FATE scholars about this trip?** It is experience that I will never forget, and if they have an opportunity to do something similar to take it.

8. **What will be your fondest memory of going to Birmingham and the 2014 MANRRS conference?** It would have to be all the games that we played during our trip that ended up making us bond even more.



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