

Reflections from Elizabeth Gomez about the MANRRS trip to Birmingham, Alabama.

I applied to go on the MANRRS Conference for many reasons. One reason is that I enjoy going to conferences because every conference I have attended I have always learned something new. When I found out that the MANRRS Conference was more directed to careers I became more interested in attending. Another reason I applied was that the conference was in a different state. I have never been to a national conference so I believed that it was a perfect opportunity to experience one. I am always looking for opportunities that allow me to gain more as a person and to gain skills that can help me achieve goals in the future. The MANRRS Conference gave me that opportunity.

I expected to learn different things at the conference. I was hoping to learn more information about what I can do with my majors and the different jobs I could hold. I expected to learn more work related skills and what needed to be done to get into certain careers or jobs. What I actually learned was the different requirements that each vet school required in order to apply for vet school. I also learned some of the application process for some of the colleges I planned to apply too. Another thing I have learned is as a woman I will have to find ways to break through the glass ceiling so I made continue to reach my full potential in my career. I learned to check myself before doing things or going somewhere and to be aware of how I am acting and the messages I am sending to others.



The experience from the conference has not changed my career goals but it has encouraged me to explore different careers that I can do with my major and to push myself to continue working towards my goals and to work harder than I was before. Being a participant in the USDA FATE Scholarship program has helped me in pursuing a college education by encouraging me to strive in being the best I can and to do whatever it takes to reach my goals and to never give up.

The thing I like best about the entire experience was being able to talk to veterinarian schools. I've learn so many things about what was required and what could help me get through their application process. I also liked getting to know everyone that attended the trip with me. Overall it was a great experience. I would tell my fellow USDA FATE Scholars that the trip was defiantly a learning experience and all the things I did learn has helped me be more knowledgeable about my career goals. It has taught me to put myself more out there and try to sell myself the best way I can so I possibly get an internship or job in the future. I was also tell them about the workshops I attended and how it gave me a perspective on different things in the work field.

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My fondest memory of the Birmingham 2014 MANRRS Conference was when everyone wrote something positive about all the other people who attended the trip and shared them out loud with each other. It showed me that other people saw potential in me and has encouraged me to put myself out there more.