

Reflections from Margarita Barco about the MANRRS trip to Birmingham, Alabama.

I applied to go on the MANRRS Conference so I could hopefully make network connections among potential employers in the agriculture field, work on resumes, and how to be more professional. Before actually going on the conference I was expecting to learn resume information, why more people are needed in the agriculture field, and learning more about the USDA agencies. What I actually learned was that I need to be “on” saying said at the University of Alabama, valuable information on veterinary schools, how to introduce myself to professional employers, other jobs than becoming a small and large animal veterinarian, and so much more.

By attending the conference, it did not change my career goals but it changed my educational goals. I’ve always had Texas A&M University as my first option to apply for vet school, followed by Louisiana State University and Oklahoma State University. But from attending the conference I learned that Cornell University, which is a private and the first veterinary school to be established in the country, has no interview process and starts doing hands on work in the first year of college. I also learned that Kent State University could possibly be easier to get accepted into than Texas A&M University. And that Tuskegee University won’t be a school I’m going to apply to when the times comes.



The USDA FATE scholarship has helped me in many ways so far. I’ve pushed myself to try harder in my studies, so I can my grades up and the scholarship. The program has been financial easier on my parents and I, which will further help once I’m in vet school. Jessica Espinoza, David Vela, and Dr. Morrish are all supporters for the students and I know want the very best for us.

My best experience was making friends 10 other people. Before the trip, I only knew one person and in the beginning we stuck together but we both gradually became friends with the others. The entire trip was non-stop fun; we played games while we were waiting, got to know each more, heart to heart conversation, and much more. What makes it even better is that majority of the students are in the same classes as me and some are even have goal to become a veterinarian as well. So now I have more people to do a study group, people to lean on when times get tough, and much more. I would tell my fellow scholars that most definitely need to apply for next years, because they’re going to love it! My fondest memory of the trip was the night before we left. All 12 of us wrote a letter to everyone. In it we wrote something positive, it could be anything, as long as it was positive. And all of us read our letters out loud and it got little emotional. I will always keep that memory with me.

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