

## Reflections from Isamar Sanchez 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 to attend the MANRRS conference because I felt as if it was a great opportunity to be able to network with employers who may offer jobs and internships, also to be exposed to schools that I can potentially apply to.

2. **What did you expect to learn from attending this conference?** Before going to Alabama I knew that the conference was hosting sessions and based on previous experience I know that in sessions they usually teach you about being a better leader and give you information about potential jobs.

3. **What did you actually learn?** I really liked that they aimed half of the sessions I attended towards veterinary medicine which is what I am interested. I learned about schools I never thought of applying to and got to hear a panel of students who are already in veterinary school and they gave advice to those who want to pursue that career.

4. **Has the experience at the conference changed your career goals? If yes, please explain.** No, the conference has not changed my career goals.

5. **How has being a participant in the USDA FATE scholarship program helped you in pursuing a college education?** The USDA FATE scholarship program has given me a chance to pursue a college education by giving me opportunities like helping me get experiences through internships and provides financial support that allows me to focus solely on my education.

6. **What did you like best about the entire experience?** I really liked spending quality time with the entire group that attended the conference.

7. **What will you tell your fellow USDA FATE scholars about this trip?** I would tell them that it's a great opportunity and if they were to attend they should take advantage of the resources given to them at the conference. It is also very important that one networks because one never knows who will be there that may be able to help you.

8. **What will be your fondest memory of going to Birmingham and the 2014 MANRRS conference?** The trip to Birmingham allowed me to strengthen friendships and get to know new members and I was able to enjoy the conference that much more. I really enjoyed the McWane science center and how it was extremely fun and definitely made me smile the entire time. My fondest of the actual conference was being able to speak to professionals who achieved what I hope to one day achieve and get their advice to be successful.



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