

Reflections from Shelby Medina about the MANRRS trip to Birmingham, Alabama.

The reason why I applied for the MANRRS conference was because being secretary of MANRRS I would hear about it a lot. David Vela was the only member who had gone the previous year and would say what a great opportunity it was to see and meet a lot of different people. I was beyond interested to go to the conference from the very first MANRRS meeting. I honestly didn't know what to expect from the conference just that it had to do with agriculture. I had no idea who I was going to meet or what I was going to do before the trip.

I actually learned a lot from going to the trip, I learned how to present myself a little better when I introduce myself to multiple Universities or companies. I learned what I need for my future job and what schools are looking for. I learned about many internship opportunities and other veterinary schools that I hadn't heard of before. I learned or "practiced" how to put myself out there and start conversations with important business people.

Yes, most definitely the conference changed my goals around for me. I've always known what my goals were and what I wanted to do, but now I feel as if I'm trying more to reach my goals sooner. The conference in a way encouraged me to try harder because there are a lot of other people who want the same goal that I want.

The USDA FATE scholarship has helped me out in so many ways. Of course financially, because I wouldn't be here without the scholarship, but I've met so many amazing people from the grant as well. I've had so much help from fellow members of the grant along with Dr. Morrish and Dr. Saucier. I've been able to travel out of Texas which is something I've always wanted to experience. The grant has helped me out in more ways than I could express, and I am beyond grateful that I have it.

There were so many things that I liked best about the trip, I loved the people I went with, and they made the trip even more enjoyable. I enjoyed our mentors Jessica and David; they were so great and helpful throughout everything. I enjoyed that I was able to be exposed to different people at the conference; I got to hear personal experiences with professionals and obstacles that they faced in life. One seminar that I really enjoyed was a women empowerment seminar and it was awesome! We heard a bunch of strong female bosses talk about personal experiences and how they overcame all obstacles that were put in their way throughout their professional career.

I enjoyed so much from the conference, I will tell everyone from the USDA FATE scholarship who didn't go, that they need to go this coming year!

My fondest memory of the trip was making my business cards; it was nerve wracking for me. I didn't know if I put too much or too little information on the card. Also, I wanted my cards to have a different style from others and it just ended up taking so long to make, but at the end it was worth it. It felt absolutely amazing to hand someone your business card for the first time. It was such a professional feeling that I've never felt. Also, I definitely need to make more; I didn't expect to hand out as much as I did.



There were so many things that I liked best about the trip, I loved the people I went with, they made the trip even more enjoyable. I enjoyed our mentors Jessica and David; they were so great and helpful throughout everything. I enjoyed that I was able to be exposed to different people at the conference; I got to hear personal experiences with professionals and obstacles that they faced in life.