

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

**Why did you apply to go on the USDA FATE sponsored trip to Birmingham to attend the MANRRS Conference?** I applied for the MANRRS Conference because I really enjoy going to conferences. It's great to see and meet new people who are in your field of interest, not only students, but professionals. You're able to talk and learn firsthand about how it's going right now, the changes, and what the future will probably bring.

**What did you expect to learn from attending this conference?** I thought I would learn about the different opportunities in the science and natural resources, and how times are changing, the new requirements that we will be needing and how to get to where we want to be.

**What did you actually learn?** Well, I talked to many people and not only did I see how times have changed and the opportunities, but I was also able to "meet" and get to know the other USDA FATE students. We have seen each other and shared small talk, but over in Birmingham, we talked and shared. It was a great bonding experience.

**Has the experience at the conference changed your career goals? If yes, please explain.** My career goals have not changed. I am still very much interested in Agriculture.

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

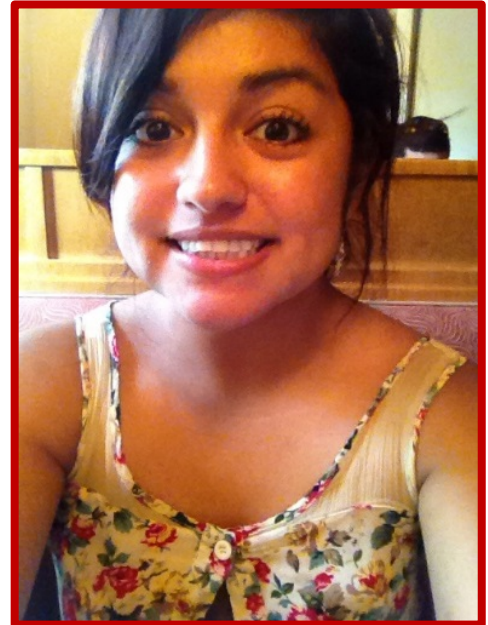
This program has helped me be able to live without the worry of how I will pay my education. Times are a bit tough, but this has helped tremendously and for that, I will always be grateful.

**What did you like best about the entire experience?** I think my favorite part of the Birmingham Conference was the time I spent with the other students. At one of our first USDA Meetings, Dean Chahin asked us to look around the room and take it all in. He said the people around us were going to be our colleagues. These students, they're pretty amazing people, and so I think Agriculture will be in very capable hands.

**What will you tell your fellow USDA FATE scholars about this trip?** It was a great experience! You meet and learn from people who are where you want to be.

They speak from experience and they're not going to tell you something to make you fail. They want you to do well. Many said within the next 7-10 years, so many will be retiring. There are opportunities there, you just have to work for them.

**What will be your fondest memory of going to Birmingham and the 2014 MANRRS conference?** Birmingham and the conference were great learning and growing experiences for me. I was able to travel to a new place and see the possibilities, but my fellow FATE students were my favorite. They were so lively and excited and they have dreams they're working towards. They're focused and determined and they make me proud to not only be part of this program but to be at Texas State.



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