Carmen Pampa Fund

Founded in 1999, Carmen Pampa Fund (CPF) is a Minnesota-based non-profit organization that generates resources to assist with the growth and development of the Unidad Académica Campesina-Carmen Pampa (UAC-CP), a college in rural Bolivia that serves poor families through education, research, production, and community service projects.

Areas of Study

- Agronomy
- Nursing
- Education
- Veterinary Science
- Ecotourism

The College offers undergraduate degrees in five different academic areas.

The areas of study were chosen by UAC-CP founder Sr. Damon Nolan, MFIC, because they respond to the needs of the people living in remote and under-served rural areas of Bolivia.

The mission of the College calls graduates to respond to and solve problems in their home communities.

Unidad Académica Campesina-Carmen Pampa (UAC-CP)

Located in a small mountain village three hours northeast of Bolivia’s capital city of La Paz, the UAC-CP was founded in 1993 to provide Bolivian youth with access to higher education and job and leadership training.

With a vision of a more prosperous, equitable, and healthy life for all Bolivians, the primary mission of the College is to provide practical, needs-based higher education to young women and men who will return to their rural communities to promote positive social and economic change.

Throughout its 25-year history, the impact of the College has been profound. Graduates have markedly improved income levels and are serving targeted rural areas. They deeply value their education and are appreciative for the opportunities that their college education provides.

Average annual enrollment is 700 students.

Recognition & Achievement

- Education and Health Committee of the Legislative Assembly of Bolivia, 2011. UAC model named a “Meritorious Institution of the State” for providing access to higher education and contributing to successful development.
- United States Agency for International Development (USAID), 2007. UAC-CP named a leader in higher education for Bolivia’s mountainous Yungas region.
- United Nations Subcommittee for the Eradication of Poverty, 2003. UAC-CP named as one of the world’s top models for eradicating poverty.
UAC-CP Graduate Feature

Wilfredo Garcia
Nursing, 2011

Wilfredo Garcia knew from a very early age that he wanted to be a nurse. At 9-years-old, he was trained as a public health promoter with Fundación San Lucas (FSL)—a Franciscan organization based in Cochabamba, Bolivia, that provides health care services in the rural area.

Today, Wilfredo serves his family’s home village and surrounding communities as a nurse with FSL’s mobile hospital program. He attends to the sick and promotes healthy living. “I see the curative part of my job as secondary and the prevention as primary. Because if you don’t solve the cause, the health problems will continue.” The most common illnesses he sees are the result of poor living conditions, such as lack of access to clean water.

Wilfredo also serves as an example for children in the communities where he works. In fact, he now manages the same “Niño a Niño” (Child to Child) health promoter program that first introduced him to the idea of becoming a nurse.

Wilfredo believes he is an example of the mission of the College in action. “Once I finished my studies, I returned to work in the rural communities so that I can transmit my knowledge and skills to the people, families, and communities that need health services.”

UAC-CP Alumni

As of January 1, 2019, 802 men and women have graduated with undergraduate degrees from the UAC-CP.

Results from graduate survey indicate:

• 89% of graduates reported being employed in the same field as their area of study.
• 91% worked in jobs that support Bolivia’s rural area.
• 72% found jobs they wanted after graduation.
• 54% of UAC-CP graduates are women.
• 42% of alumni have advanced degrees.
• 300% increase in income reported between UAC-CP graduates and their parents’ generation.
• 62% of alumni were scholarship recipients.

• Academics
The UAC-CP offers undergraduate degrees in five major areas of study, as well as two master’s degrees and a variety of post-graduate certificate programs.

• Entrepreneurship
In 2017, the College launched its Business Institute, which allows students to learn best practices in business development and empowers young Bolivians to become business owners.

• Production
The College produces coffee, meat products, and vegetables. It also provides hospitality services. Earned income helps to subsidize the College’s general operating costs.

• Research
All students are required to research, write, and defend a thesis project. In preparation, 100% of students are required to participate in annual science fair competitions.

• Social Service Extension
The entire student body is required to participate in social service outreach programs in rural communities as part of their academic coursework. Extension projects include: public health visits, crop research projects, animal vaccinations, and educational workshops.

• Leadership
The College provides various ways for young people to gain leadership skills and experiences that incorporate indigenous culture.

Leaving a Legacy for the Future

“Education is a core value. It is the way for any child, in any part of the world, to improve his or her life. I’m proud to know that our legacy will help to educate young Bolivians at the College.”

-Sharon Bussard, pictured with her late husband Paul.

People of all ages and incomes can be legacy donors. Contact Carmen Pampa Fund to learn how you can include the College in your planned giving.

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