**End of summer report**

My name is Frank Hernandez, I am a rising senior and I am a double major in Latin American and Latino Studies and History with an educational studies minor. The title of my research project this summer is titled ”“U.S-Mexico Border: Family separation and child migration from the early 2000s to the present.”” With this project, I was trying to understand where these migrant children were coming from and also learn more about the experience of a border crossing. This FURSCA project was very personal to me because both my parents crossed the border while they were children. With that being said, the goals for this project were to understand the policies that were put into place, read stories of first-hand accounts and retellings of migrants, both children and adults, regarding their border-crossing experience. I also went in-depth with different news articles regarding the region of Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador, otherwise known as the Northern Triangle. One of my minor goals was to also educate myself and others as to why these migrant children are coming to the United States and combat the stereotypes that have been placed on migrants coming from Latin America.

Throughout my research, I was able to achieve several of the goals that I was hoping to achieve. I was able to understand what may push children and adults to endure this deadly trip across central America to achieve the U.S-Mexico Border. These push factors include climate change, gang violence, starvation, and lack of education and opportunities. I’ve also learned about the different experiences that migrant children go through while moving through the system of the United States. From going to a detention center to receiving a green card and permanently being separated from their loved ones from their country of origin. I will also include a youtube link to the presentation that I did during my FURSCA research that covers what I've done.

Throughout my research experience, this project has helped me figure out a possible career path that I am interested in, such as migrant advocacy, working directly with migrants who have recently arrived in the United States, and possibly being a translator. I plan on presenting at Elkin Isaac and explain why this topic is so important. Migrants are a very important aspect of our communities and this issue of child migration and family separation should be brought up. Doing this project has definitely impacted my life, like I said earlier, my parents both crossed the border illegally but it wasn’t until this summer that they finally opened up and told me their stories. I have been able to learn how U.S policies directly affect the deaths of migrants crossing and how smugglers manipulate others trying to leave their countries for wealth.

I would like to give an incredible shoutout and thank you to my advisor Marcie Noble for guiding me through this research project and helping me cope and understand the different processes while researching, the FURSCA team, and Vanessa McCaffrey and Renee Kreger. I would also like to thank the Hyde Fellows in Student/faculty Research for supporting my research.

<https://youtu.be/jLFcjZBtzNU>