

Camila Castro

Student Pinnacle Award

Vancouver Campus

Camila Castro is originally from El Salvador. She is the youngest child of Rene Castro and Lizzette Iraheta de Castro, and her elder brother is named Carlos. She completed her primary, middle, and high school studies at Colegio La Floresta where she developed a passion for volunteering and social work, as well as a passion for education, knowledge, and learning.

In 2007 she started volunteering for a project call PROSAM. The project aims to empower girls, young women, and women from poor rural areas in El Salvador and it's run and organized by girls in high school. Camila's her first involvement in PROSAM was a life changing experience because it opened her eyes to the reality of many Salvadorians, and it made her see the need for change. Thus, she continued volunteering for four years and served as head of different committees, secretary of the board, and even president of the board and project. Upon high school graduation in 2010, Camila helped establish a similar project but this time run by college students called UNETE. Both projects are still running and continue to grow.

Camila was also part of the first generation to complete the International Baccalaureate program at her school. While she found the program particularly challenging, the academic, personal, and professional growth outweighed the endurance. *"Thanks to the IB model, I develop a passion to learn more, to question more, and to investigate more."* Her IB studies inspired her to pursue higher education abroad, and it was Fairleigh Dickinson University's mission statement that made her to opt for this institution. In 2011 she moved to Canada

where she started her undergraduate studies in Business Administration at the Vancouver Campus, where she was also part of the Global Scholar program.

In 2013 she applied to represent the University at the 2014 National Model United Nations Conference in New York. The committee selected her and three other students to represent the University and the delegates were very pleased to honour the school with an award as a *Distinguished Delegation* due to their excellent performance. Upon return, Camila, along with classmates Ximena Ortega and Alejandra Collantes, decided to formalize a Model United Nations Club called "FDU MUN Club". The club was aimed to expand the opportunities for students to attend MUN conferences. In 2014, the club gave four scholarships to students to represent the university at local conferences, and organized the first Model United Nations conference at Fairleigh Dickinson University Vancouver Campus.

Camila also cofounded a discussion and debate club with adjunct professor Dr. Kiran Toor and classmate Sherry Henriquez. The club aimed to engage students, professors, and staff members in an exchange of views on a variety of topics such as art, literature, philosophy, politics, and current events. Thanks to Dr. Toor's and Camila's support professors and students have been meeting on a weekly basis since Fall 2013. In Spring 2014 the club decided to bring their discussion to the stage and presented the first theatrical production at the Vancouver campus. The play was written and directed by Dr. Toor and it was performed and staged by the club members, and received a standing ovation!

In Fall 2014 Camila joined the Student Government Association as a vice-president.

She helped to formalize many clubs on campus with the intention of enhancing campus life for her fellow classmates and professors. Also, under the supervision of Dr. Gifford, she started working as research assistant for the Modernist Version Project where she produced comparable digital critical editions based on the following works: Ernest Hemingway's *In Our Time* and H.D.'s seven poems in *Des Imagistes* and their revisions in *Sea Garden*.

Camila didn't stop her community service once she moved to Vancouver. Since 2011 she has been organizing and running leadership activities with a social outreach component for girls in primary and secondary schools from the greater Vancouver area.

Upon graduation Camila will be moving to Toronto where she will pursue a career in trade or international relations and she is planning to go back to school after a year to pursue a Masters in Global Affairs.