

**A brief progress report to the Alumni Committee**  
**May 1, 2016**

It is my pleasure to report back to the Alumni Committee on how I used my Garden Hill Grant.

With my partners at CUP, we have completed the design of the poster “En El Campo De Los Impuestos (In The Field of Taxes)” and have printed it and begun distribution to migrant farmworkers in Pennsylvania and beyond. The poster helps the farmworkers know their taxation responsibilities, which in turn will help them preserve their rights, keep as much of their wages as they’re entitled to, and ultimately help them if they choose to apply for citizenship in the future.

Our advocacy partner, the Pennsylvania Farmworker Project, has begun distribution throughout their networks in rural Pennsylvania. Other copies have begun circulating nationally, as the design allows for simple stickers to be placed over Pennsylvania-specific information to allow the poster to work anywhere it’s needed.

The lessons learned from this project include:

1. Don’t presume to know what is or isn’t confusing to the intended audience. The process of user-testing our poster revealed that the points of confusion were not necessarily what we thought. Correcting these errors before printing the final version makes the poster more likely to be used and valued.
2. Sometimes the best way to be subversive is to be strategic. These posters help the farmworkers have confidence when explaining their rights to their employers. In order to prevent the employers from feeling threatened by this, we framed the information as a set of rules that are required by law. However, if these rules are followed, the farmworkers will be properly classified by their employers, will get more of their money back at tax time, and will increase their likelihood of success if they apply for citizenship in the future. All of this helps to prevent exploitation.
3. When doing a project at a volunteer (or close to it) wage, it’s more helpful to be strict about the schedule than to be flexible about it. The staff at CUP kept the entire team on schedule for the six months that it took to produce this poster. This often meant late nights while I tried to meet my deadlines amidst a busy life, but it also meant that the poster was done on time and the project didn’t drag on endlessly! In my experience, being flexible with volunteers often leads to projects never being completed.

The poster is downloadable for free in Spanish, and the English version will be completed soon.  
<http://welcometocup.org/Projects/MakingPolicyPublic/EnElCampoDeLosImpuestos>

My gratitude for this grant knows no limits! Thanks, Alumni Committee!!



The design team at work, presenting a draft to Lany and Lazlo from the Pennsylvania Farmworker Project.



The poster was user-tested. Feedback from the workers was incorporated into the final design.



The posters are printed and delivered to Lazlo and Lany at Pennsylvania Farmworker Project.

The poster has made it as far as San Luis, Arizona!