Amanuel Zeryihun is a graduating fourth year senior studying electrical engineering at the University of California, Santa Cruz. Amanuel's passion for working in the community and commitment to improving diversity in the settings around him have been a very visible component of his sojourn at UCSC. Along with his participation in CAMP, Amanuel served through multiple positions in the National Society of Black Engineers chapter at UCSC, most notably as chapter co-founder, Vice President and President. He also served his community as a Residential Advisor for two years.

In his second summer at UCSC, Amanuel worked in the NASA Ames Advanced Studies Laboratory with professor Nobby Kobayashi where he developed a prototype for a thermoelectric characterization system for nanoscale semiconductors. Amanuel's involvement in research continued to a different branch of electrical engineering as he now conducts research under professor Hamid Sadrapour in the field of communications and network coding. Amanuel first developed an interest in wireless systems when working on a project in Intel's smartphone development group this past summer. His work consisted of testing the modems of developing mobile devices so that the devices could be ready to pass certification and enter the market. Through his position at Intel, Amanuel gained excellent insight as to the industrial component of engineering and how important it is for one to pursue an advanced degree in order to attain highly sought out and competitive research and development positions. For this reason, Amanuel successfully sought and secured a fellowship from the National Gem Consortium to study for a thesis based Masters starting Fall 2013 at the Georgia Institute of Technology in Electrical and Computer Engineering. He will be studying in one of Georgia Tech's distinguished abroad programs, Georgia Tech Lorraine, which is located in the eastern region of France, Lorraine in the city of Metz.

"To be able to study for my Masters and have the option of continuing for my Ph.D., while studying at one of the top universities and research institutes in the world—and to be able to do so in a new country—will be an unbelievably thrilling experience. I am so grateful to have had the mentorship, experiences and exposures that I had with the CAMP research program... they allowed me to really get a grasp for what my fields have to offer and how exactly I could make each opportunity a success."