

Gustavo Flores
Week 6

It's been an incredible six weeks thus far. I have learned a lot, met many important individuals, and most prominently, I have noticed a great change in my professional growth. I used to feel a little intimidated and scared because things were always different around here and you never knew what to expect; however, all that has changed within these few weeks.

This week was particularly interesting because the other CAMP interns and I had the opportunity to help the Office of Migrant Education with the annual meeting for the HEP and CAMP Directors. This allowed us to network with CAMP Directors from all over the country, which I found to be a really amazing opportunity. At the same time, I was able to interact with my very own director, Dr. Diaz. On Monday night, all the interns, along with our directors, got together for dinner at a Chinese Restaurant. We had very interesting conversations over a variety of delicious plates that we shared. At the same time, I was able to interact with my director and discuss her journey through college and the struggles she had to overcome to achieve all that she has accomplished. I admire her even more after our conversation. I appreciate her commitment to the CAMP students. All of the course work and workshops assigned to us during our first year of college prepared me for this internship and I never realized how beneficial it would be until now that I am able to apply all that knowledge at work.

This brings me to another pair of incredible individuals that I have grown really fond of, Patrick Doone and his wife Betsy. Patrick, or "Pete" as we refer to him, due to his resemblance of Pete Carroll, the Seahawks football coach, is the HEP/CAMP program coordinator. He is the man who has led the way for us throughout the whole internship. Ever since we first arrived in DC, he took care of everything that we needed in order for us to have a smooth transition. I can say the same about his wife Betsy who has been very supportive and helpful. I remember going to church with her the first weekend we settled in. They took us out to some really appetizing restaurants, gave us knowledge about many historical events and places in the city, and showed us how to get around the city using the Metro. Their friendship is something I will cherish for a very long time.

While at the Directors meeting, we were able to meet one of last year's CAMP interns, Alberto Aramburo. He was a really nice guy, I enjoyed having him around because he could relate to everything that we are experiencing. On Tuesday night, we wandered off for a late night walk around the city visiting all the monuments that we could find. It was a long and tiring walk, but it was worth it. We were able to have some serious conversations that brought us all together. My roommate, Miguel, who rarely goes out for walks, joined Alberto, Aileen, and I.

Miguel, his advisors, and I ended our week by attending a baseball game at the National Park Stadium, home of the Washington Nationals. They played the Los

Angeles Dodgers, who happen to be my favorite team. Although the game was cut short due several lighting failures, I still had fun. Miguel and I ate a lot of food and had some really interesting discussions.

Overall, in just these few weeks, I have made endless, extraordinary memories. I feel very lucky to be around a group of amazing interns along with all the inspiring individuals I have met along the way; I am grateful for the many others who made it all possible.



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