

Gustavo Flores  
Week #3

Wednesday's breakfast with Arturo Rodriguez, president of the United Farm Workers (UFW), perfectly highlights how much of an amazing experience this internship has turned out to be. I deeply appreciated meeting Arturo and having the opportunity to talk about the topic of farm workers and farm labor, which is so relevant and personal to me. Our conversation placed me in a position of wanting to take action to help contribute to the cause of equal rights for all farm workers and Arturo connected me with the perfect individuals. All the networking skills that this program has stressed upon us interns were set into motion and the outcome was beneficial.



Monday of Week 3 was also very exciting. Aileen Contreras, one of the CAMP interns, was able to get us tickets to attend a series of musical performances at the Kennedy Center. The name of the event was titled *The Book of Mormon*, and it consisted of a series of musical and acting performances. They were all very talented, inspiring and informative; I had never seen anything like that before. Later in the week on Thursday, we had the chance to attend a networking reception at the National Association of Broadcasting with all the other CHCI. Lawyers, lobbyists and many other professionals in different fields accompanied us. We all took advantage of the opportunity to network and make connections with these influential individuals who could very well help us in our careers in the near future.



Aside from all the fun that this internship has to offer, I have to say that being in DC during this historic time in American history is incredible. I was able to witness history being made with the ruling of two important Supreme Court decisions in just one week. The excitement is nowhere near the same as if you were watching the news at home from a television. The atmosphere and excitement of the whole city is electrifying. On Friday, after the Supreme Court ruled in favor of legalizing same sex marriage across the US, I went out for a walk around the city with some of the interns working at the same office. As the nearby streets were packed with joyful pedestrians admiring the White House, we too came across the remarkable display of the White House that was lit up with colors of the rainbow. It was an incredible site and I was fortunate enough to witness it all firsthand.



Also, I am quite fond of the connection that I am building with other interns and staff members at the office. I have adjusted to the office setting really well now and I am more confident with answering phone calls and mail. I am also very familiar with the House buildings; I no longer get lost thanks to all the staffers who are very supportive and understanding. I don't feel intimidated by them as I did on the first days. There is a tradition called Brown Bag Lunch at the office where office managers and volunteers have the opportunity to sit down with the interns and discuss their positions and the life choices they made that got them here. I feel extremely fortunate to be placed in an office where the staffers truly care about making our internship a life changing and memorable learning experience.