

## The BIG Week

One thing for sure is that I have never had the experience of working in a professional job or the experience of working in an office. To be honest I have never had a job where I am indoors for the majority of the day. Therefore my first week of working in this internship was different, but at the same time, somewhat of a cultural shock.

My summers usually consisted of working and practicing for football in high school. I love football, but also knew I had to work so I can help my family as much as I can. I am the oldest of three siblings and felt like it was my duty in getting a job to help my parents with financial support. I got my first job at the age of 13 working in the cherry orchards. I have had many different agricultural jobs throughout my life. I have worked doing cherries, vineyards, corn, potatoes, and apples. Working in these jobs taught me so much, but one thing is for sure, I do not want to live the rest of my life doing agricultural work.



This internship saved me from another summer in the fields, which I am so fortunate. Besides all that, my first week in the office will always be unforgettable. I am the type of person who loves to dress up professionally, and being here for this internship, I get to do that every day. I also enjoy not having to be outdoors all day. I now get to work inside, in an air conditioned building, with no sun torching my body. The first day at work I was given a tour around my building of work, so that I can get familiar with my surroundings. There are three buildings that connect through an underground tunnel. These three buildings on the House of Representatives also connect to the Capital and the buildings in the Senate side through this underground tunnel. As confusing as it sounds, it is really not that bad. In addition, I was also taught how to open up the office and learned where everything in the office was. I felt comfortable with everything except the simple task of answering the phones in the office. As easy as it sounds, for me it was

difficult because there are so many buttons on the phone, which made transferring phone calls to other staff members difficult. Additionally, because people call the office for so many random things, I do not know how to reply at times. The good thing is that I have gotten so much better throughout the week and I am starting to feel more comfortable as I answer the phone.

The rest of the week went well although having to learn about everything that is going on with votes and bills trying to be passed are at times hard to understand. The vocabulary used in these bills' are so complex, at times I have no clue in what I am reading about. I also got to attend a briefing about Trade Promotion Authority, also known as TPA. During this briefing, it was difficult trying to comprehend everything, but what really got interesting was hearing every

congressman's idea, and seeing how other congressman reacted to it. Let's just say, some congressman obviously do not agree one bit with other congressman.

What I enjoyed most about the weekend was going to mass and then going to the zoo right after. Mass was great, but different from home. The zoo was not that big, but it was free, and although it was hot, I still had fun. I got a chance to spend some quality time with the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute Interns (CHCI Interns). The CHCI interns are all very smart and talented young people. They are all older classmen, but it gives us CAMP interns role models to look up too.

