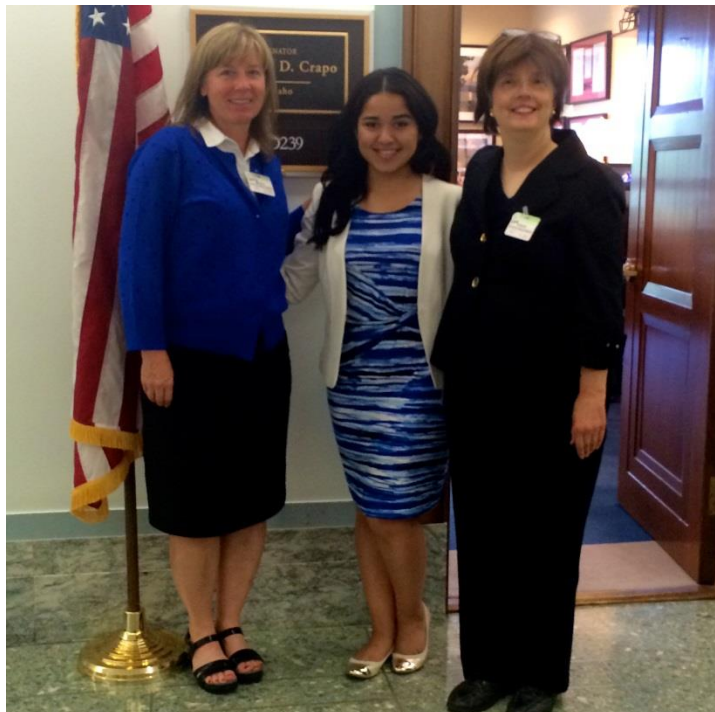


WEEK 7

The 2014 HEP/CAMP Annual Directors' meeting began on Monday. It was held at the Department of Education. I was very excited and looking forward to seeing familiar faces from Boise. I met Gypsy Hall, the Associate Director for CAMP at Boise State University, and Michelle Kelley, the HEP Associate Director! Unfortunately, CAMP Director, Dr. Scott Willison, was not able to make it.

At the meeting, Dr. Ramirez introduced the interns to the Directors and to the audience; then, we walked up to the front of the stage for recognition. The general session discussed the HEP/CAMP results for 2012-2013. Following this event, we went to Capitol Hill to visit our congressional offices. Although I was

not feeling well, because I had sinusitis, I insisted in attending the Hill visits to provide a student's perspective. I joined Idaho's HEP/CAMP Directors. We visited with Nathan, a staffer from Representative Mike Simpson's office, and Ashlyn from Senator Crapo's office. We provided them information regarding the performance of HEP and CAMP in Idaho. I shared my testimony as a student and how CAMP has provided countless opportunities and positively impacted my life. To end the day, a CHCI intern and former CAMP student, Mayra Estrada from Boise State University, joined Gypsy and me for dinner.



On Tuesday, I was feeling worse than yesterday. Due to the sinusitis, I had a fever and a horrible migraine. Elizabeth checked in on me before she left to the Directors' meeting and suggested that I should stay in, until I felt better. Once I took medication and I began to feel better I joined the last session of the day. Former and current CAMP interns, as well as two CHCI interns, went out to dinner at El Chalán with Amás. We talked about CAMP, our intern experience and politics. It was a great way to end the day!

On Wednesday, we accompanied Amás and Irene to meet with Roberto Rodriguez, the Education Advisor to President Obama. The meeting was held at the Eisenhower Executive Office Building (EEOB), which is right next door to the White House. The meeting provided an opportunity for CAMP interns to talk about their background and the wonderful resources provided by their CAMP programs. After the meeting, I went back to the office because the interns had a picture scheduled with the Senator! It was exciting; I shook her hand and introduced myself before taking the picture! She is so kind and humble!



Picture on the East Side of the White House.



Before the meeting with Irene

Friday July 25, 2014

MY BIRTHDAYYYY!

At midnight three of my fellow CAMP interns went to my dorm to sing Las Mañanitas (happy birthday) for my birthday.

Friday CHCI programming

We met with Fernando Cazares from Voces Verdes; he joined to engage Latino leaders and voices in the fight against climate change and in support of

renewable energy. Voces is an independent non-partisan coalition of Latino businesses, public health, academic, community leaders and organizational partners who advocate for sound environmental policy to combat climate change and support clean, renewable energy. They recognize the importance of balancing economic growth, environmental protection and prosperity. Voces aims to ensure that the voices, concerns, and talents of the growing Latino community are taken into consideration in shaping public policy and governmental action



that promote environmental progress, economic prosperity and healthy communities.

Then, we left to the Hill to meet with the House Democratic Whip, Steny H. Hoyer. Once he entered the room, he went around and shook each of the interns' hand and gave us the opportunity to introduce ourselves. He spoke about his experience and encouraged us to give back to our community. He spoke about his first encounter meeting with Nancy Pelosi when she was an intern. I couldn't help to ponder about how many of my fellow interns I will meet in the future and where we will be and what we will be doing.



We also met with Chairman Rubén Hinojosa; he is the Chairman of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus (CHC) and CHCI. He is so inspiring and humble! He is known as a champion for the underprivileged and is notable as a strong supporter for education, housing and economic development. He is a powerful voice for the hopes of communities usually left behind in America's education system such as low-income families, minorities, students with disabilities, English language learners, and the children of migrant and seasonal farm workers. He spoke about his experiences in running for office. Something that inspired me was his encouragement to the women in the room to never give up in our education, especially those pursuing a STEM degree.

After this meeting, we all went to the Newseum; it is an interactive museum of news and journalism. This museum features 15 theatres and 14 galleries. We started by visiting the Pulitzer Prize Photographs Gallery Exhibit. This gallery features the most comprehensive collection of Pulitzer Prize-winning photographs ever collected. Some of the photographs have become photographs of their time such as the Marines raising Old Glory on Iwo Jima. These images record a defining moment for our nation and the world. Following the Newseum visit, we went to a CHCI Alumni Reception. After the Reception, I was called it a day and went back to the dorm; I watched a movie and fell asleep.

On Saturday, The CAMP interns and I went to Vapiano Restaurant/lounge, we went to hear Ruby's friend DJ.