

Week Two:

The internship begins! This was the first week working as an intern at Senator Kirsten Gillibrand's [D-NY] office. There are a total of 31 interns. I understand this is very different from other interns' offices. I work with Nathasha, a CHCI intern and with Charlene, a CHCI alumna.

I took the Metro with some CHCI interns on my first day. During the morning, we covered policy and other information that is found in the Intern Handbook. After lunch, we had to complete a scavenger hunt worksheet. The scavenger hunt was exciting! It consisted of running from the Capitol, to the House and Senate sides. Overall, it was a successful first day. I have learned how to sort mail, work at the front office, check our intern emails, and how to do sets on IQ.

On Wednesday we attended the Congressional Women's Softball Game at the Watkins Recreation Center. It was great spending time with the interns and staffers outside of the office and cheer for Senator Gillibrand! I also had the opportunity to attend my first hearing; it was such a great experience to be in the same room with Senators, Congressmen, Congresswomen and speakers. During the CHCI Friday Program, we had several guest speakers. The main key speaker was Paul Taylor; he emphasized more on issues regarding the Millennial Generation.

During the weekend, CHCI interns and I went to the Holocaust Museum. I reflected on history and how one person can make a difference. During the night CAMP interns and CHCI interns went dancing; and, I had the opportunity to learn how to dance Bachata and Merengue.

I experienced incredibly delicious food at a Dominican Restaurant and experienced tasting the Merengue Soda drink. The highlight of the week was the opportunity to bond with CHCI interns and listen to their stories. They were all very inspirational. These students are very compassionate.



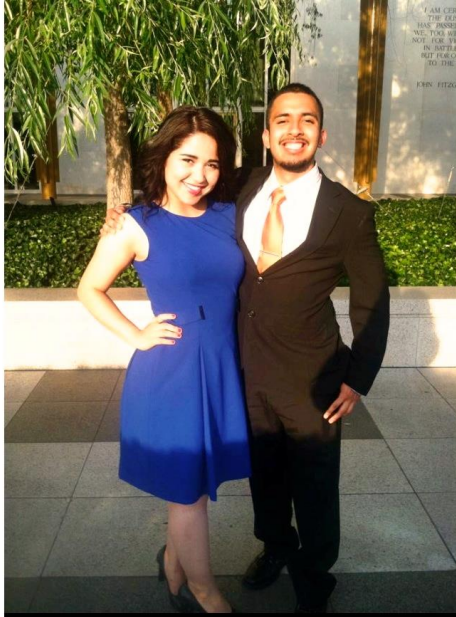
Senator Gillibrand, interns, and I after the softball game!



Senator Gillibrand signs our posters. 😊

Week Three:

I started the week off by attending the Presidential Scholars Ceremony with fellow HEP/CAMP interns. The event was hosted at the Kennedy Center to honor some very talented young scholars. The building is spectacularly beautiful; I really liked the many chandeliers and the red carpet.



Gabriel Rojas and I, outside the Kennedy Center, before the Presidential Scholars Ceremony.

During lunch the interns and I attend a brown bag with a different office staffer each day of the week. The brown bags are so helpful because we get to hear each staffer's experience and career advice. Many of them started as interns in D.C. They have all stressed the importance of networking and following up with others. On Wednesday we had a tour walk through; however, halfway through the tour, it was cancelled due to the Capitol being so crowded. Thursday, we met the CHCI staffers in their main office here in DC. We learned about their experiences and how they contribute to the office.

This Friday's programming was awesome! It was different in comparison to the past Fridays. We started the day by gathering in the Dirksen Senate Office Building. We met in one of the Committee rooms where hearings are held. We met CHSA members and Capitol Hill Latino Staffers. They shared their experience and advice on how to survive on

Capitol Hill as a Latino/a. Then, we went back to Phoenix University. We listened to speakers from various organizations; they talked about their experience and provided us with more information. The organizations represented were Teach for America, Peace Corps, and City Year. Following the discussion, we watched The Inocente Documentary.

I spent part of my Saturday at the Museum of Natural History; the exhibitions were incredible! The material showcased in the human evolution section was my favorite section of the museum.

Week Four:

During this week I received my first project from one of the staffers, I was so excited! After work I went to dinner with CHCI interns at DuPont Circle to the Luna Restaurant it was nice spending time with them and talking about our culture and Hurricane Arthur. The week went by fast; since we were not in session, we would leave the office earlier than usual. On Thursday we got out of the office at noon. I spent the remainder of the day with some CHCI interns; we ate lunch at Chinatown and talked about the plans for the Fourth of July. On my way home, it started raining so I ran to the nearest CVS store and bought an umbrella.

FOURTH of JULY!

I met with the CHCI familia during the morning and waited for everyone to be ready to leave to the parade. The parade was incredible and it was nice being surrounded by many amazing people. Following the parade, we went to a Mexican restaurant in Georgetown to watch the soccer game; it was Colombia vs. Brazil, such an intense game. Everyone was cheering and eating; it reminded me of my family. Then we went to this rooftop gathering to watch the fireworks. Literally, we had the best seats in the house; the fireworks were captivatingly beautiful. This Fourth of July could not have been any better, definitely one for the books!

On Saturday I went the Flea market, known as the Weekend Market, walked around and was adventuresome. Then, I went to the Smithsonian; I visited the Sculpture and Art Museum. It was a great exhibit to do some self-reflecting. Afterwards, I went to the Air and Space Museum; it was

super fun! This museum has incredible information and spectacular scientific facts.

After spending most of the day at the museums, I joined some of the CHCI interns and had a kick back dinner in their dorm. I continue to reflect on the time I have spent here so far. Being an intern in D.C. has been incredible; there are just no words to express how thankful I am to the HEP/CAMP Association and CHCI for making this opportunity possible for students such as myself.



Fourth of July 2014! At the parade with CHCI Interns. ☺



At the Mexican Restaurant watching the soccer game.



At the Speakers Balcony! Incredible view.