

Welcome! As you may already know my name is Vianney Gonzalez. Throughout the duration of my internship I will be writing a weekly journal entry; it will consist of highlights that happened throughout the week and other information. The reason I am completing a journal entry for each week is to share my experience as a Capitol Hill intern in Washington D.C. I hope that future interns find my journal informative. Additionally, I am writing these entries for my own purposes of doing a self-assessment at the end of the internship and to reflect on many of the great memories.

First Week: Getting Accustomed to D.C.

Prior to my arrival at Ronald Reagan National Airport, I was apprehensive, I did not know what to expect as an intern in Washington D.C. During the flight, I was studying my Intern Prep Packet that my Intern Coordinator mailed to me. The realization of what being an intern is all about and living across the country for the summer began to deepen in my mind. I was so absorbed processing that before I knew it, I had arrived to my destination.

Patrick Doone and his wife, Betsy, were waiting for me by baggage claim. Once I retrieved my baggage, I met another intern and we waited together for the others to arrive. Soon after they began to arrive, we became acquainted with each other. I learned where each intern came from, their placement and how CAMP functions at their institution. We left the airport and reached the Potomac housing at George Washington University; I share a room with Diana Rojas from Oregon State University. We put our belongings in our room and went out for dinner.

The following day, Patrick, Betsy and I along with four other interns, attended mass at St. Stephen's Catholic Church. Patrick was very helpful directing us to Whole Foods, Trader Joe's and Target. Most importantly, he taught us how to use the Metro.

Throughout the week the HEP/CAMP interns collaborated with the CHCI interns. We attended informational seminars together. These seminars covered useful material that interns should know such as how to competently introduce yourself, how to connect in today's world of etiquette; we learned to write memorandums. We also learned plain language writing, how to be a public speaker and what not to put on social media. We had guest speakers who shared their personal stories and provided tips on how to succeed in D.C. During the week, we attended the Tri-Caucus reception and had the opportunity to interact with other Caucus interns. The CHCI photo shoot was postponed due to the weather; in the end, it was a success. We got to wait our turn, along with the CHCI interns, to have our headshot photo taken in front of the Capitol. These photos will be included in the CHCI website.

The HEP/CAMP interns did not attend the ropes course training with the CHCI interns; instead we visited our placement sites. We met with Irene Bueno; she is an inspiring and humble woman. I am so thankful there is someone like her representing the HEP/CAMP programs in D.C. and working to make this opportunity for the HEP/CAMP interns possible so that we can have the experience to enhance our skills in this intellectual environment and take it back to our community.

The highlight of my first week hands down would be meeting Arturo Rodriguez, the President of United Farm Workers (UFW). It was an extraordinary experience to participate, for the first time in a civil disobedience protest on Capitol Hill, on the need for Comprehensive Immigration Reform.

Last but not least, I just want to acknowledge Diana Rojas, Elizabeth Castro, Chive Aramburo, Gabriel Rojas, Samantha Rivera, and Ariana Rodriguez. Each of them has something special and unique; I feel as if I have known them for years. The connection we established so

quickly is remarkable. I look forward to bonding with them more during the duration of this summer internship.



First day of orientation with the CHCI interns.



At Capital Hill



Dinner at a Peruvian Restaurant, El Chalan, with Patrick and Betsy Doone



Picture with Arturo Rodriguez before protest



With last years HEP/CAMP intern from Idaho, Areli Arteaga



Photo Shoot day!



Adventure to the Presidential White House, with my fellow interns.