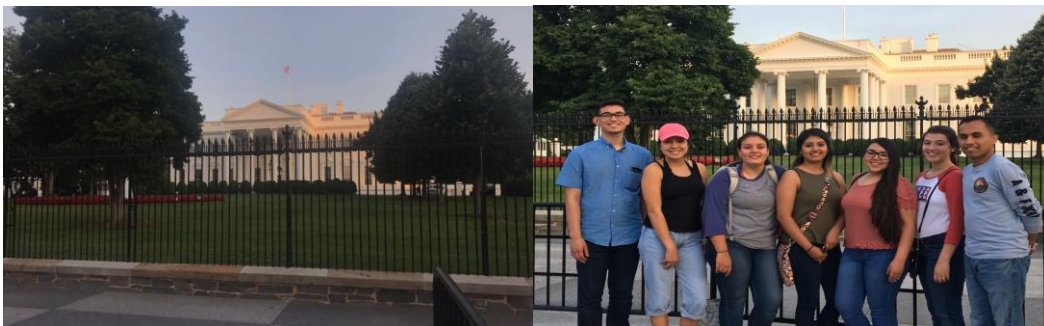


One week, dozens of changes; that is exactly how my week can be described. I was full of anxiousness and fear before arriving. I had never been on my own before and I had no idea how I was going to get by for the next two months. Two months of endless opportunities that await me.

My week began by flying for only the second time in my life. Just like the first time, it was a thrill! After saying my good-byes, the excitement quickly replaced the sadness. I could not wait to get to D.C. and see where I would be staying. After a very long day of traveling, I got to the airport where Mr. Patrick Doone and the rest of the interns were waiting for me. I had no idea what to expect! Everyone was so kind from the start and everything was going very smoothly. We all got on a bus and began our adventure by heading to the George Washington International House, where we would be staying. Upon arrival, I had no roommate, which has not changed. I must admit it is quite nice having a room all to myself. After dropping off all of our stuff, Patrick was kind enough to take us out to dinner. We went to an Italian restaurant and I had some delicious broccoli. I did not eat much because I had eaten before boarding my flight. The other food all looked great though! Once we finished dinner, we headed out to explore around. We went to the White House and it was amazing! All of the buildings were so beautiful and towered above us. To say the least, it was a great welcoming day to D.C.



The following days would prove to be impactful as my whole life plan began to change. On Sunday, everything went as usual and we got to know the city a little better. Unfortunately for me, I would get a little taste of adulthood as I went grocery shopping for myself for the first time. I could not believe how much I paid for such few items! Truly a shocker, but not as shocking as the rest of my week. I came to be the first intern to work in Senator Merkley's office while also participating in the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute training and program. I have my supervisor to thank for that. She brought it up and next thing I knew I was on my way to the training. Training that would educate me on so many subjects. Every day, we were presented with individuals who were doing amazing things. They were all so inspiring and had a lot of helpful information and advice. Throughout the week, I heard many impacting stories of individuals, whom had similar backgrounds to mine, excelling in life. They were all passionate about their work, and that is what I want for my future. I all of a sudden was feeling nervous about my future and wondering if I was pursuing the right career.

That was only the beginning as I came home and quickly began looking into a career in Law. I liked what I saw. From the content to the growth opportunity, I liked it all. Additionally,

Gloria Ramirez

Week 1

knowing my school has a great program and partnership with two Law schools I began to feel like it was something I should consider. I emailed one of the former CHCI alumni who now practices Law and asked if we could potentially meet and discuss her career. She quickly agreed to meet with me, and now I have that to look forward to. Aside from that, I also had some influential workshops on Friday that would make me become convinced that becoming a Lawyer was what would allow me to fuel my passion. Meeting with the United Farm Workers of America was the difference maker. The staff was kind enough to educate us on immigration and answer every question that arose. I am so thankful for the time they gave us. They really changed my life in the hour of time I spent with them. Their work integrates my passion. My passion for my family, helping those with similar backgrounds to mine, and equality. I cannot wait to work alongside this amazing association. I want to help in any way I can, and that will begin with my efforts in trying to get senators and congressman to support a bill that could change many lives. Just as mine has been changed in a matter of a week.

I cannot express just how thankful I am for this opportunity. I know many of the applicants were just as deserving of this position, and I do not take it for granted in the slightest bit. I am so excited to show everyone why I was chosen, but not as excited as I am to learn more from this experience. One week in, and I have already basically changed my entire life plan. I cannot begin to imagine what else the next seven weeks could bring.

