

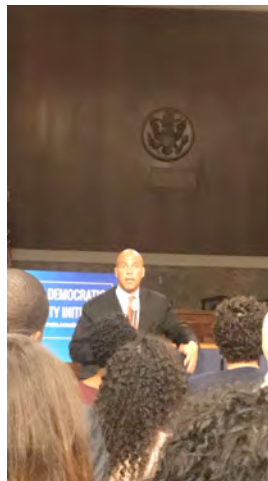
Gloria Ramirez

Week one on the job has come to an end. It was so full of new experiences, meeting new people, and nerves. I had no idea what this week would bring, but I could not be more thankful for my time here.

Monday was my first full day of working in Senator Merkley's office. Most of what I did on Monday, and for most of the week, was orientation type work. Even though it was overall easy, it was fascinating to learn all of the work that goes into our government. Fortunately for me, another intern, Miles, started on Monday as well and we were able to work together. On a more exciting note, Monday also consisted of going to a play in the Kennedy Center. It was such a beautiful building. The play was performed by all high school students and it was shocking to see just how talented some of our country's high school students are! I mean I don't even know if I have a talent, but if I do, it is definitely eating as I can eat a lot. I actually used my talent to end the night and ordered some pizza with some of the other CAMP/HEP interns.

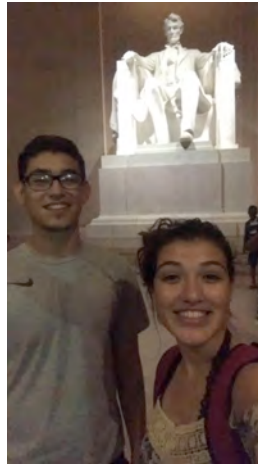
Tuesday was an eventful day at work as I began the training to become a tour leader. I saw so many important sites that played a role in our nation's history. I had no idea that most of those sites were there. They were all beautiful and receiving the training was very insightful as I learned many facts about every area we visited. It was so exciting to me that I actually stayed after work and practiced the route. I loved having all of the spaces to myself as I got let all the beauty in the art soak in. My favorite area was definitely the Rotunda in the Capital building as it had so gorgeous art everywhere you looked. It is also the biggest room, big enough to fit the statue of liberty!

Wednesday was a pretty average work day. It consisted of more tour training and email coding. Although I was not very challenged, I still had a great day because all of the staff is so great that they make the day go by quickly. Additionally, the work I did is educational so I enjoy doing it. Towards the end of the work day, my day got a little more exciting as one of the other Senators held an ice cream social. It was a great opportunity to network and we got to hear some really inspirational speeches from a variety of Senators, such as Senators Booker and Schumer. It was a great way to end the day.

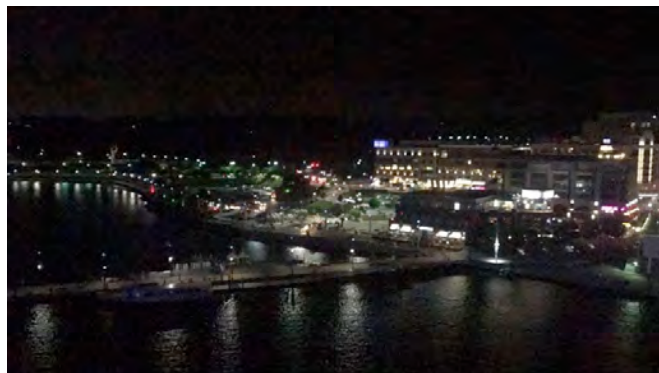


Gloria Ramirez

Thursday was a thrilling day! I got to meet the Dean of Undergraduate Studies at Oregon State University and her family. They were my first official tour and I could not have asked for a better group. They were so kind and just overall amazing people. She actually invited me to lunch upon my return to school, and I am really looking forward to catching up with her. That was not the last exciting thing to occur on Thursday, however. I actually received my first major task! It was time sensitive which made it that much more thrilling. I think knowing its importance and being under the pressure of time made the assignment a bit of an adrenaline rush and I really enjoyed working on it. It left me looking forward to future assignments. To end such a great day, another CAMP/HEP intern, Carlos, and myself did a little bit of shopping and site seeing.



Friday, I did not have work, but rather I had a variety of workshops to attend held by CHCI. They were educational and helped with my writing skills. After the training, some of the interns who live with me, Lupita and Rebecca, and I went shopping. After the shopping trip, we decided to make a trip to the National Harbor where the Capital Wheel is. It was such a beautiful trip. There was so much to do and the views were incredible. Unfortunately, we got there pretty late and most shops had already closed. We are definitely planning to return soon.



Saturday was full of adventures. All of the CAMP/HEP interns and myself went to all of the Smithsonian Museums. It was very tiring, but there was so much to see in such little time. It was very fascinating to see all of the different displays. I especially enjoyed the interactive part of the museums and got my hands on a couple bugs! After the tiring walking, we came back to our dorms and rested for a while. At night, Lupe, Becca, Abi, and I decided we would continue our adventures by going to a dance club. None of us had ever been to one and we all just wanted to see what it was like. We ended up enjoying ourselves and stayed for a while. We then ended the week by ordering some pizza and enjoying our night together.



It is exciting to think we still have 6 weeks ahead of us to continue this adventure, yet it doesn't seem like enough time. I have met some wonderful people that have built a friendship with already. Coming from a small conservative community I was not exposed to much. Now, after a year in college and receiving such an amazing opportunity, I have grown and learned so much. With six weeks left, I cannot imagine how much more I have to learn.