

Jose Gallegos
HEP/CAMP Intern
Journal
Week #2

My first week of work at the Office of Migrant Education (OME) was super successful and interesting. Since arriving in D.C., I was looking forward to this week because I knew that Carlos (HEP/CAMP intern and my roommate) and I would be interning at the same place, so we could help each other navigate through the office. My first day was a little bit slow, yet, really engaging. I had the opportunity to meet a lot of the OME staff and a couple of other interns as well. Lisa Ramirez (Director of OME) told me that many of the staff members who work under the Office of Elementary and Secondary Education (OESE) were on a work trip observing different high schools in Florida. Since my supervisor Tara works under OESE, she was going to be absent during my first week of work. However, during this time, I had the opportunity to work with Ed and Preetie, two other incredible and nice staff members of OME. One of the tasks that I was assigned to do was to create the annual profiles for the HEP/CAMP programs. When Preetie and Ed told me about this project, I got excited because I will have the opportunity to learn different things from other HEP/CAMP projects in other states as well as to understand how awards/grants are given to HEP/CAMP programs. On Monday night, Lisa invited me and the other CAMP interns to the U.S. Presidential Scholar Ceremony at the John F. Kennedy Center. This ceremony awards those students who demonstrate ability and accomplishment in career and technical education fields. One thing that I forgot to mention is that while I am doing this internship, I will be still going to school. I am taking an online class to complete one requirements to transfer to a four-year university. Unfortunately for me, I could not attend the Presidential Scholar Ceremony because I had a lot of homework to do.

Two of my highlights this week were going to the Supreme Court on Wednesday. The U.S. Department of Education organized a tour of the Supreme Court for the interns working in the department. We were fortunate to participate in this tour because we were allowed to enter/spend time in the court room and the Supreme Court's Library (closed to the public). I had never imagined myself being in the Supreme Court, one of the most important buildings of this nation.

During the afternoon, Carlos, Roxy, Evan and I went to an ice cream social hosted by Senator Schumer's office. During this event, I had the opportunity to meet many people, most of them interns working in the different congressional offices. I also had the chance to see Senator Cory Booker from New Jersey, Senator Kamala Harris from California, and finally Senator Chuck Schumer from New York. I had an awesome time meeting new people and listening to the three different Senators giving us words of wisdom.

On Friday, the other interns and I attended CHCI workshops. Although the HEP/CAMP (us) and CHCI interns have spent one week together, we have built strong relationships. During our workshop, we talked about the importance of first impressions and how we should create connections with other people. Almost towards the end of the workshop, we talked about how to become a leader within our community. We came up with the resolution that leaders are made from experience and actions. I really enjoyed this discussion because we were all seriously engaged and passionate about this topic. It is amazing to see how we (all the interns) come from diverse backgrounds and regions but we all have something in common. We have a strong work ethic and "las ganas" (the drive) to achieve our dreams.

Finally, on Saturday night Carlos, Bianca and I decided to spend time with some of the CHCI interns. We walked to the National Mall and took pictures of the different monuments. We had a wonderful time chatting and laughing. Thanks to this internship, I have made new memories and friends that I will treasure forever.







