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Week Two (June 19, 2017 - June 25, 2017)

This week has been both very exciting, and extremely tiring. In one week, Patrick left, we started our new job, we started exploring the city alone, and we had night adventures.

Monday morning I woke up and was very excited about my first day of the internship. I arrived at the Department of Education and had a short meeting with Emmanuel Caudillo, my supervisor. I was then brought up to the 7th floor where I would be sharing a cubicle with two other interns, Roxanne and Evan. By lunch that day we had become best friends. I learned Roxanne is from California as well and she attends USC which is not too far from CSULB. Evan on the other hand is from Massachusetts. I was fortunate enough to have a cubicle with a



window view of the National Air and Space Museum! Before coming to DC I had looked at a map and realized I would be working across the street from the museum. However I never thought I'd be able to see it through my cubicle window every day. There is a huge picture of Neil Armstrong outside the museum, and I made a joke that he looks at me as I work.

Monday I also received my first assignment. I was assigned to look for towns where Hispanic population has recently appeared or is growing rapidly. By researching I found out that there is a Hispanic population boom in North Dakota because of the oil industry. A fun fact I learned was that the state with most Hispanics is California!

Tuesday I had the intern orientation at the Department of Education. I learned there is a library in the basement and about the strict security procedures. That same day I had my first staff meeting which is held every Tuesday. During the staff meeting we get to know more about each other as well as talk about our projects. Towards the end of the day we had a presentation from the Director of the Center for Equity in Learning of the ACT, Juan Manuel Garcia. Towards the beginning of the presentation I was very confused as to how or what ACT as a company could do to help the Hispanic population. At the end of the meeting I was in awe. Mr. Garcia had a very powerful presentation of all the resources ACT has for student to succeed on their test. I learned they provide free access to online practice tests and study guides as well as a free ACT test to students who qualify for free and reduced lunch. Both my fellow intern Roxanne and I were moved by all of the great resources ACT is making available for

underprivileged student like us. Mr. Garcia allowed us to also share our story with him and we expressed our gratitude for the help ACT is providing.

Wednesday, I went on a tour of the Supreme Court. The tour was an hour and a half long and we were able to sit inside the actual courtroom. To my surprise the courtroom was smaller than I imagined and seats very few people. Although pictures of the inside are not allowed, it is beautifully! We were also shown the library inside of the Supreme Court which was filled with wooden book cases. Our tour guide told us any piece of writing quoted by the Judges had to be present in their library.



Friday once again was spent at the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute (CHCI) office. We learned about etiquette in a formal dining setting. I had never seen so many plates and forks and spoon set at once! Our second writing workshop also took place, I learned more about using plain language efficiently. Plain language allows the writer to explain their point in the simplest way possible with the least amount of words. Since I am an engineering student this is a very helpful workshop for me since

I will be writing technical memos at one point or another. Friday night we went to the National Harbor pier. It was a great bonding experience with the rest of the interns. We saw the Capital Ferris Wheel and many statues! My favorite was Rosie the Riveter. I have always loved the “We Can Do It” slogan and vintage posters, so getting to see a statue was very exciting I had to take a picture of me hugging her!



After this very tiring and exciting week I finally got the opportunity to rest this weekend. I slept in both days and did some journal writing and painting. This also gave me time to reflect on how lucky I am to be here. I am not only representing myself, my school CSU Long Beach and CAMP, but also my family and community. I am more than thankful for this opportunity because without CAMP and my family I would not be here today!