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HEP/CAMP Intern

Week 3

Week three was another success. It started off on Monday. I had the opportunity to spend a bit of time talking to my supervisor, Tara, about some of the projects that I am going to be doing during my time interning with OME. One of my duties is putting a Power Point presentation together called "Good News" for the Annual HEP/CAMP Directors Meeting. The goal of this presentation is to highlight the accomplishments, success stories and any other news from the different HEP/CAMP projects across the country. At first, I thought that this project was going to be difficult because I didn't have any idea on how to begin, but Steve, another kind coworker, guided me through the process of how to start creating this presentation. In the next couples of days, I will be in charge on contacting the HEP/CAMP directors to encourage them to submit any news to be highlighted in the presentation.

Monday afternoon was frustrating. As I was walking out of my office, I checked my backpack and noticed that I didn't have my apartment key with me. I went back to the office to see if by any chance I had left it on my desk but sadly, when I arrived at my cubical, my key wasn't there. For a second I thought, maybe I left my key in my room, so I called Carlos (my roommate) to ask him if he had his key with him. Unfortunately, he forgot his key at home too. At first, I didn't know what to do because this was my first time losing the key to my apartment. When I arrived at George Washington University International house (my casa), I decided to go to the GWU student services and housing office to ask for an extra key to open my apartment. Luckily, they gave me a 24 hours special key to open my apartment. However, they warned me that if I couldn't find my key in 24 hours, I would have to pay \$150 to obtain a new key. Hearing this news gave me a chill and stressed me out even more.



To relieve my anxiety, Carlos, Bianca and I decided to bike ride around the city. Bike riding around D.C. is super fun because we had the opportunity to visit new places in the city that we didn't know. We went to the famous Georgetown cupcake shop where we had the most delicious cupcakes we ever had. Honestly, this bike ride helped me relax after a rough day.

Tuesday was the best day of the week. When I arrived at work in the morning, I looked on my desk and the first thing I saw was my key. I think one of the ladies who vacuums the office found my key and put it on my desk. Finding my key brought me so much happiness and relief to my anxiety. Like I said, Tuesday was the best day of my week. I had the pleasure and opportunity to have lunch with Dr. Lisa Ramirez, the Director of OME. I had a great time chatting, sharing my story and listening to her advice for my future endeavors. I have only worked in the Office of Migrant Education (OME) for two weeks and the whole team has already made a huge positive impact in my life.

After lunch, I took the metro to Capitol Hill. My Representative Jared Huffman invited me to visit him at his office. I also invited Giev Kashkooli, Vice President of the United Farm Workers (UFW), to come with me. I decided to invite Giev because I wanted him to meet my representative and talk about the working conditions of farmworkers in my district. Honestly, it felt great to have the opportunity to talk to my representative and to be able to advocate for the farmworkers.



On Thursday, Lisa invited me to a meeting with the School Support Rural Program (SSRP) staff to learn more about the program and future projects that will benefit rural schools across the nation. At first, it was super difficult to understand half the things all the staff members were talking about because they used a lot of acronyms. I'm really proud of being part of the OME team because everyone in the department works really hard to bring new opportunities to migrant students. Now I have the privilege of being part of the OME family.



On Friday, as part of the CHCI workshops, we went to the Newseum. This museum had different exhibits, most of them news and social events that have impacted our lives. One of the sections that I was most affected by was the 9/11 section dedicated to the victims. We (all the interns) had an amazing time in the museum.



After lunch, we traveled back to the CHCI building for two workshops. The first workshop was presented by Louie Ortiz Fonseca, Manager for LGBTQ Health and Rights. He talked about how there is still discrimination and racism within our LGBTQ Latino community. The second workshop was an immigration panel lead by Jose Magana Salgado from the Immigration Legal Resource Center (ILRC). This workshop was interesting because we live in a tough political time and it is good to know about the different organizations who support immigrants in the United States.



On Saturday, the other interns and I went to the Holocaust museum where we learned so much about the history and injustices experienced during this terrible time. It made me very sad to learn about the children in the concentration camps who suffered so many calamities. So far, this is the best museum I have visited. Finally, after lunch Carlos and I went to get a haircut in a barbershop located in Columbia Heights. We discovered that in Columbia Heights there is a large population of Hispanics. It made me happy to see so many Latinos because it reminded me of California. Overall, week 3 was awesome; I can't wait to see what other surprises I am going to encounter next week.

