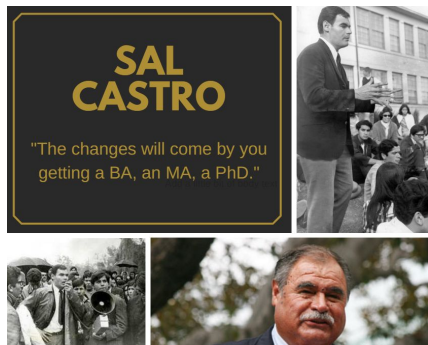


Rebeca Saray Griego  
Week Three (June 26, 2017 - July 2, 2017)

It has now been three weeks since I arrived in DC. Currently I am very excited with the work I'm doing at the White House Initiative! I currently have two projects I am working on.

First, I am working on a strategy to have social media presence for Hispanic Heritage Month, which is from the 15th of September to the 15th of October. Thanks to this project I have learned more about my culture and also those who have fought for my rights. At

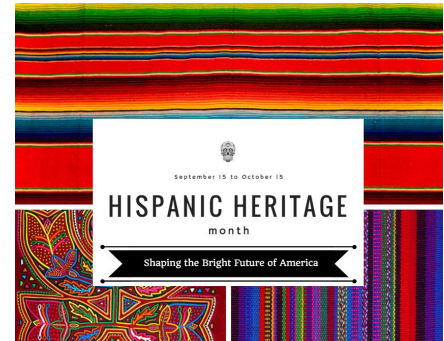


school the only history we really hear about it the Mexican-American War, the Treaty of Hidalgo, and sometimes if we're lucky something about Cesar Chavez. Having to look more into my own history because of this project I was introduced to Sal Castro who was a teacher and activist in East Los Angeles. Mr. Castro was the head of the 1968 walkouts. I love painting and I was very excited to learn about Hispanic artists who I had never even heard of!

Second, I am converting the Initiative's history into a visual presentation. I love working on digital presentation and being creative so I am very happy to be working on it. Thanks to this assignment I have learned of all the great resources that are out there for the Hispanic community. Being an engineering student I was very happy to see all of the help the initiative has offered in the STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) fields. I am very passionate about education because I think being well educated is what allows us to achieve more. It is also amazing to see how the Hispanic community has grown educationally. It is refreshing to see the government is doing things to help our community.

Monday morning was tough! I woke up at 5 am to make my way to the Supreme Court, because my coworkers, my supervisor Emmanuel, and I were going to attend a hearing. It was a once in a lifetime opportunity and I got to see Sonia Sotomayor in her chair!

Tuesday, we had a breakfast get together of all the interns working with the other White House Initiatives. I learned there are 5 in total, and we also met the Under



Secretary. It is very interesting for me to experience this. There is one person at the top making all these different decisions that affect millions of students. Decisions made in the very building I work have affected my 12 years of primary education. As I continue my undergraduate degree in a public institution, they will continue to affect me for at least 3 more years. So many different backgrounds and experiences and learning styles and one person gets to decide for us.



Wednesday I walked home from work. During my walk I was able to finally realize I'm in DC! It's crazy to think I could've been back home, in Northern California with my parents, counting the days until I got to go back to school. But no, I'm in DC having the opportunity of a lifetime. I am very interested in architecture, so I used my walk to examine all of the building I walked past. It is absolutely incredible what our minds have created. As I walked through the George Washington University I saw the engineering Building and I had to take a picture. It really made me miss the engineering building from Long Beach!

During the week I also got to enter the Air and Space Museum! I still have not gone and spent the entire day there however I did go



in briefly and fell in love. Just on the first floor I saw some amazing things. Seeing the different rockets and the Mars Rover as well as the Lunar Module makes me extremely excited for the future. Standing there and looking around and makes me think of all the hard work that was put into every single aircraft displayed there. It makes me wonder how these ideas came and then how they evolved to be the final product. We as the human specie have come so far and I think sometimes we don't take time to think about it which is why we don't realize it



Friday again, we spent the day with the Congressional Hispanic Caucus as we do every Friday. It was a very informational day. We started the day off at the Newseum. I was able to see a section of the Berlin Wall! It's a shock the Berlin Wall has come down with the help of the US yet there is currently an attempt to build a wall on our southern border. What me and Abi discussed after our walk through the Museum was the lack of Hispanic representation in it. There was a hall full of Civil Right memorabilia and not one mention of the 1970's Civil Rights movement lead by Hispanic leaders. It was very disappointing.

This weekend I decided to go on a little adventure on my own. I visited the Renwick Gallery and the National Museum of the American Indian. Being in the Native American museum made me very emotional. I also hope to be able to bring my dad to it one day. He loves all of the history of the Native Americans and it is a subject close to his heart since we are from Yaqui descent. I also took a stroll around "The Mall" (which is where a lot of the museums and monuments are). There is also a great view of the Capitol.

