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HEP/CAMP Intern

Week # 4

I can't believe week four just ended. It seems like it was yesterday when I was heading to the airport to catch my flight to Washington D.C. Something that I want to emphasize is that when people say, "Time goes by so fast in D.C." they actually mean it. So far, week four has been one of the best weeks of this internship. It started off on Monday; as usual, Carlos and I arrived at the OME office on Monday morning. To our surprise, everyone was teleworking and the only people in the office were Dr. Lisa Ramirez, Tara, Carlos and myself. I took advantage of the peace and silence in the office to read some articles related to educational policy and to finish other small tasks assigned to me by my supervisor. Since Carlos was having a lunch meeting with Dr. Lisa Ramirez, I decided to invite Tara (my supervisor) to lunch. It was nice to have a conversation outside of work with Tara because she is an awesome, kind human being who has a strong passion for poetry. As a reward for our arduous work, Lisa allowed Carlos and I to leave the office an hour early to go to the National Archives Museum. It was incredible to see so much history in one building. My favorite part of this museum was when I had the opportunity to view the original declaration of independence. It was amazing to see and be so close to the Declaration of Independence. Unfortunately, we were not allowed to take pictures.



On Monday afternoon, Carlos, Bianca and I went to spend time with the CHCI Interns. We went to Georgetown to buy cupcakes and to walk next to the Potomac River. It is

amazing how in four weeks we have developed such an amazing relationship within our cohort. Personally, I think we are more than just a cohort; we have become a family.

Tuesday, was such a memorable day in my life. We woke up early to get ready to see the incredible 4th of July parade in Washington D.C. All the HEP/CAMP interns walked down to Constitution Ave. to see the parade. Before the parade started, I had a strong feeling inside of me. I was very anxious to see the parade because according to many people in D.C., the parade was super special and long. When the U.S. Army marched in front of me carrying the American flag during the parade, it made me feel very proud of all the things that I have done and the struggles that I have encountered over these past five years. I stared at the American flag for a while and I experienced a strong feeling of patriotism and admiration. During this moment, I closed my eyes and in my heart, I thanked God for all the amazing opportunities life has given me.



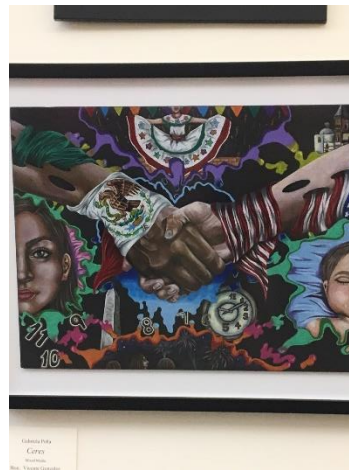
After the parade, we traveled to Virginia for a barbecue that the CHCI Interns organized to celebrate the 4th of July. In addition to the barbecue, we also had a small karaoke competition. It was both funny and nice spending time with such a humble and amazing group of people such



as all the interns. Almost towards the end of the day, we came to the National Mall to watch the fireworks. Before the fireworks show we had the opportunity to enjoy the *Capitol Fourth* concert which occurs in the mall, right in front of the Capitol. The concert ended with the traditional jaw dropping fireworks over the National Mall.

Independence Day in D.C. was amazing, definitely an experience that I would never forget.

Wednesday and Thursday were both slow and tiresome. Like I mentioned before, one of my projects assigned by supervisor Tara was to create the HEP/CAMP profiles. Finally, after a few weeks of arduous work, I finished those profiles. As part of my celebration, Carlos and Chris and I went to the U.S. Capitol for a tour given by Bianca. We had a great time walking around the U.S. Capitol appreciating the gorgeous architecture and learning so many things about the legislative branch.



On Thursday afternoon, Tara (my supervisor) was so kind to invite me and the other HEP/CAMP interns to have dinner at her house. Tara cooked some delicious Italian food and bought an ice cream cake for us. We had a lovely time chatting and playing board games. I am glad to have Tara as my supervisor because she is more than just another OME staff member she is an



amazing person who is always motivating others to do great things in life. Thank you very much Tara.



Another association that I am proud to be part of is the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute (CHCI).

These people work extremely hard to bring Latinos to Capitol Hill and to create the next generation of Latino leaders. As part of this Friday's workshops, we went to the Organization of American States (OAS) which is an organization whose main goal is to create solidarity and cooperation among the Latin America members.

During the presentation, we learned about the different services that this organization provides and a few internship programs that they offer to undergraduate students. I was fascinated with the different internship opportunities that the OAS offers, now I am

considering doing an internship with the OAS. After the OAS presentations, the HEP/CAMP cohort visited the NVG headquarters to have a lunch meeting with Irene Bueno, one of the NVG co-founders and representative of the HEP/CAMP Association in D.C. During this meeting, we also had the opportunity to talk on the phone with Patrick. It was nice to talk to both Irene and Patrick because we shared our experience working in D.C. and they also gave us advice to make the best out of this internship.

On Friday night Carlos, Bianca, Chris and I, along with some of the other CHCI interns, decided to go New York City. However, due to the length of this journal, I decided to save my New York adventure and tell you more about it next week.

