

Bianca Chavez
HEP/CAMP Intern 2017
Washington State University
Congresswoman Michelle Lujan Grisham



Day Twenty-Nine: Saturday, July 8

NEW YORK!! We made a spontaneous trip to New York and it was perfect. We were so fortunate to get a free hotel in Time Square, thanks to a friend who had a connection. It was the first time I've stayed in a hotel that nice and we stayed in the heart of New York. We explored the city and did a lot of site-seeing. I very much enjoyed Central Park, I love admiring the culture. It is a lot different than the West Coast. We spent the night exploring Time Square, it was everything I imagined. It was truly breathtaking; I never imagined I would be in Time Square.



Day Thirty: Sunday, July 9

Waking up in New York City, is this really happening? I wasn't sure so I faceted my family back home. I shared how badly I wish they were with me and asked them to update me on how things were going. After the phone call, I felt uncomfortable. My family was still going through our everyday struggles and I knew it. However, I understand that a lot is out of my control and that I will later be able to help a lot more if I remain focused.

Day Thirty-One: Monday, July 10

In the office, I was able to share my weekend stories with fellow interns and my supervisor. After work, I went to go play basketball with the staffers from my office. I was a little nervous because I was bold enough to invite myself after I heard them inviting the male intern. They were shocked that I played basketball and one asked me about my skill level. I think they underestimated me because they were shocked as soon as I drove the ball to the basket and scored early in the game. They mentioned I was the first girl to ever go play basketball with them.



Day Thirty-Two: Tuesday, July 11

The day in the office was busy because we were in session and constituents kept calling. I really enjoying answering the phone because when constituents call and voice their opinion it encourages me to do the same. I wish more unrepresented communities were aware of who their representative is and what actions they can take to assure they are heard.

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Day Thirty-Two: Wednesday, July 12

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Day Thirty-Three: Thursday, July 13

The vibe in the office is really cool, especially now that we have broken the ice. I think it helped that I played basketball with the staffers; I find it easier to approach them. Also the interns in my office and I have hung out outside the office. I am hoping to have them over for dinner one night, maybe this upcoming week. They all come from a very different background than I do and have been nice to me.



Day Thirty-Four: Friday, July 14

Super busy day in the office, I loved it. I had an interesting conversation with another intern in the office about how others perceived us. Additionally, we talked about the importance of communicating, especially in time of disagreements to ensure efficiency within groups. I will definitely put this into practice when issues arise.



Day Twenty-Eight: Saturday, July 15

Friday! Yay! Everyone loves Fridays but this Friday was special. CHCI took us to PBS and learned about the organization. I am amazed by the influence PBS has had in my life and my community. This led me to think about all that I take for granted. After visiting PBS, we attended the Public Policy and International Affairs Program (PPIA) Graduate School Expo. The expo was great because I was able to connect and hear about opportunities and ways to prepare for graduate school.