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HEP/CAMP Intern

Week # 5

As I mentioned in my last journal, Bianca, Carlos, Chris (another intern in the OME) and I decided to go on an adventure to New York. On Saturday morning, we took the 3:30 a.m. bus from D.C. to New York City. As soon as we arrived in New York, we went to eat breakfast and find our hotel in Times Square. On Saturday, we visited different places such as Times Square, Central Park, the World Trade Center, the 9/11 memorial, Wall Street, etc. We walked a lot and by the end of the day we were extremely tired and had a few blisters on our toes.





On Sunday, we went to the Rockefeller Center and to buy souvenirs for our families. After lunch, we decided to take the metro to the Brooklyn Bridge. It is crazy when people say, “we live in such a small world” because as we were buying our metro cards, we ran into my boss/supervisor Dr. Lisa Ramirez. It was hilarious how we ran into Lisa, her husband and her friends because last week she mentioned that she was going to spend the week in Texas with her family and friends. We didn’t expect to see Lisa in New York. We were both surprised and happy to have run into each other in New York. We walked the

Brooklyn Bridge and we took a picture to show everyone in the office. During the afternoon, we went to Little Italy and Chinatown and finally we took our bus back to Washington D.C. Overall, New York was definitely for the books.

Week five was both busy and tiresome. Since I spent my weekend in New York, I didn’t have enough sleep and the next day I was super tired at work. However, my busy schedule and enthusiastic coworkers helped me forget my fatigue and motivated me to keep up with the great work. I spent the rest of my week working on analyzing the abstracts for the new HEP/CAMP awardees. The main goal of my analysis was to find the similarities and differences within each HEP/CAMP project and create a small presentation to share with the rest of my team. Another task that I was working on was the “Good News” presentation for the ADM. Since the deadline to submit the pictures for HEP and CAMP projects was getting closer, this week I received many emails with the pictures of the different HEP and CAMP projects across the nation.

One of the highlights of this week happened on Thursday. I received an email from Linda, the Director of Student Interns at the U.S. Department of Education saying that we will be visiting the White House in two weeks. When I read her message, I was extremely happy because after many years of hard work, I will visit one of the most important buildings in American history. Thanks to the HEP/CAMP Association I will complete one of my goals.



For Friday’s workshops, we went to PBS headquarters in Virginia. We had such an incredible time at PBS because we had a PBS panel who talked to us about the different projects PBS is working on to recognize the Latino Community in the United States. We also had the opportunity to share our life experience and to mention how one organization such as PBS made a significant impact in our childhood. After PBS, we came to George Washington University to a PPIA Graduate School Expo. During the expo, we had the opportunity to learn about the different graduate schools across the nation.



On Saturday, I woke up at 6 a.m. and traveled to Kenilworth National Park here in Washington to volunteer for the Lotus and Water Lily Festival. After 5 hours of arduous work, I took the metro to Columbia Heights to volunteer at “La Casa Ruby”. It is an organization that provides different services to vulnerable members of the LGBT community. Volunteering in two different places gave me the opportunity to meet and work with new people as well as to

reinforce my passion for helping those who need it the most. At the end of the day, I was exhausted, yet again all this hard work was worth it. I want to thank all the CHCI interns who volunteered with me at Casa Ruby because together we made a great impact in those peoples' lives.