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Week five has once again been an adventure.

These past few days I have been thinking more and more about the opportunity I currently have being in our nation's capitol. This entire experience has truly been life changing and something I will carry with pride for the rest of my life. Thanks to the time I've spent here and how much I've used the metro, I feel really confident about going to any city and using their public transportation.

At the Department of Education WHIEEH I have continued to work on our social media planning for Hispanic Heritage Month. Specifically I have been working on posts about specific countries. It has been very exciting learning about different countries. I have always wondered about Central and South America, however never really took time to research them. This project has allowed me to do so. The first country I was amazed by was Belize. I first did a simple Google search and was just blown away by the beautiful beaches. I then did a little more research I learned they have 900 Mayan sites and 450 islands. In addition Belize is the only country in Central America which has English as the official language.



Learning about all these new things was very important to me for two main reasons. First of all, I love learning. I like knowing about anything and everything. I think as humans we all have a natural sense of curiosity and it is important to fulfill it. Second, it has really opened my eyes to the lack of information we are presented with at school. We take history classes from first grade on word about the US. We learn about the pilgrims in every grade and we learn about the 13 colonies and the Star Spangled Banner many times. Yet we never learn about anything outside of that. Or at least not in my experience. In my sleep I can tell you what the stripes and stars on our flag are and who the first President of the United States was. But outside of that I was oblivious to the world around me, and I believe that is the case of many people. I think it is a very selfish way of teaching.

Thinking about how little we know about anything outside of the US really made me start thinking of how this affects us. I know about Mexico because I am Mexican and because my parents made it their goal my sibling and I stayed connected to our roots. If it were not for that,

all I would know about Mexico would be that at some point Texas was part of Mexico and that the Mexican-American War occurred. There is so much more to Mexico than that. Our current President made some very disrespectful comments about the Mexican people. Many citizens of the United States have agreed and run with those comments. In my opinion this all goes back to our lack of knowledge outside the US. This lack of knowledge makes constricts us.

Friday was a very pleasant day spent again with the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute (CHCI). In the morning we gathered at the Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) office. Towards the beginning I was very confused as to what we were doing there and what PBS could offer us. By the end I was completely shocked. PBS reaches so many parts in America, and outside the US as well. One of their missions is to reach children who cannot attend preschool for whatever reason. Through their programs they try to teach these children the things that would be taught to them at preschool. I always watched PBS because we couldn't afford cable. Shows like Caillou and Arthur were always playing in my house. Thanks to those shows I was able to both learn and practiced my English. In addition, many of the CHCI interns also expressed their gratitude to PBS. The second half of Friday we spent at the George Washington University's Public Policy and International Affairs school fair. Although I am not really interested in Public policy or international affairs, the Peace Corp was there and I got the opportunity to talk with them. I also accompanied Lupe as she asked some the schools about their Law programs.



This week because it was more clam I got the opportunity to keep getting closer to Lupe, Abi, and Gloria. I never thought we would become friends in such a short amount of time. I'm also starting to miss home. More than anything I'm very excited to go back home and Long Beach and share with everyone all of the great things I have earned on this trip.