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Week six and I am getting ready to go home. Reflecting on all the great opportunities I've had in the last few weeks, I am truly honored to have represented the CAMP program and my school California State University, Long Beach. Not only have I been here making a difference for myself but hopefully for the entire LatinX community.

For a long time I struggled to find a way to follow my dreams of becoming an astronaut and also helping out the community that helped me so much. I later realized my way of helping this community would be by empowering students and families like my own, who aspire to be the things people constantly tell them they cannot. For a long time, I was told by many engineering was not for me because I am a woman and because my parents work in the fields. How on earth could I have even imagined one day reaching Mars. But that never stopped me and with the help of many other who have believed in me I am in Washington DC, and soon Mars.

This week I visited the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) in Rockville, Maryland. After an adventurous and long Metro ride there I finally reached the offices. Roxanne, another of the interns of the Department of Education, and I attended a STEM outreach talk for incoming high school students from around the nation. As an engineering major myself, it was very interesting to see younger and eager faces wanting to learn more about STEM. We also had the opportunity to see a simulation of how a nuclear plant actually works!



I am beyond thankful for all the opportunities the Department of Education's White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanics has given me in these six weeks. From talking to ACT, to researching for Hispanic Heritage Month, to allowing me to attend the NCR STEM talk.

Thursday I attended the Congressional Hispanic Leadership Institute's Future Leaders Conference. At the conference I heard about 5 members of congress speak about their excitement for the next generation of Hispanic leaders. Also, I found out that there will now be a summer Pell Grant available. This to me is very important because it will allow a huge number of students to have easier access to graduating from university within 4 years.

*CHLI: Future Leaders Conference*

Friday as usual, we attended the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute (CHCI) programming. This Friday, we went to the Department of State and Service Employees International Union (SEIU). At the Department of State we were informed of all the careers available for us there. I never knew how the people at United States Embassies around the world were selected, and Friday I found out. People interested in doing the job must take a rigorous test and pass it. They are then assigned their first two countries, and after they bust “lobby” for the country they would like to represent us at next. At the SEIU, we discussed the current state of our Social Security system and how if we do not change something soon, this will affect all of us.



*CHCI at the  
Department of  
State*