

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



**Day Forty-Three: Saturday, July 22<sup>nd</sup>**

A rooftop pool birthday party? I didn't even know there was such thing. My friend Antonia turned 20 and the interns in her office hosted her a small gathering. I had so much fun interacting with everyone. We raced in the pool and shared stories of our time in D.C. It felt so strange to be on a rooftop but a lot stranger being on a rooftop with a pool. D.C.'s weather betrayed us and before we knew, the rain and wind joined the party so we had to cut it short.

**Day Forty-Four: Sunday, July 23<sup>rd</sup>**

Volunteering is the new cool thing. I think everyone should try to volunteer their time for something that matters to them. I had the chance to volunteer at the Arlington's Peru Festival. It was an exciting experience and I learned about their culture. They had vendors with food, snacks, different items and a myriad of live performances. Most of all, I enjoyed seeing the joy it brought the community to watch the traditional dances.



**Day Forty-Five: Monday, July 24<sup>th</sup>**

I feel so comfortable in the office now and I feel like I belong on the hill. I owe it to HEP/CAMP, CHCI, the staff in my office and the amazing people I've met here. During lunch, I attended a bible study. It was great to be in a room full of professionals who were willing to listen to the word of the Lord. I wish I would have known of the group sooner. In retrospect, it is so hard to attend every event because there is so much to do on the Hill.



**Day Forty-Six: Tuesday, July 25<sup>th</sup>**

What? Two rooftops in one week? That is more rooftops than what I have ever been on in my life. Okay, that might not be entirely true. When I was younger we use to climb on the roof of my aunt's house. It was a lot of fun until we were caught and banned from it. I remember the deep trouble we all got into with our parents. However, this time I was attending a Networking Mentoring event. I was introduced to many inspiring people I hope to continue keeping in touch with.

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**Day Forty-Seven: Wednesday, July 26<sup>th</sup>**

As I was about to check out some thrift stores after work, I saw Antonia getting off the metro and invited her to come along. Afterwards, we went home and I made her dinner. We spent a few hours together and she and I connected through our stories. I was empowered and reassured that we are needed in these spaces even if there are not always inclusive. Like her, I strive to make a difference and our biggest motivation is our family.

**Day Forty-Eight: Thursday, July 28<sup>th</sup>**

What an exciting day! I shadowed the Congresswoman Lujan Grisham. I had the chance to watch her in action, ask questions and interact with her. I also got the incredible opportunity to meet with Illinois Congressman Luiz Gutierrez along with other members from CHCI. Personally, I think of Congressman Gutierrez as a hero and strong advocate for our community. Working on the Hill, I've learned that everyone is busy all the time and to see that Congressman Gutierrez was willing to take the time out of his schedule to meet with us and have a real heart to heart conversation with us was a blessing. After work we had the CHCI graduation. It warms my heart to see how many people including staff, peers, and members of congress want to see us succeed.



**Day Forty-Nine: Friday, July 29<sup>th</sup>**

One of my favorite workshops by far in our office. Not only were they amazing hosts but they were talking money. We learned a lot about finances and how to build credit. This was extremely useful information and they were able to answer all of our questions. Although I must admit, I left a little overwhelmed and wanted to run to my bank and make sure everything was fine. I look forward to making some changes. After the workshop we all went to CHCI and had lunch. We played music, sang and danced. Then, we continued with the rest of the workshops for the day. I really enjoy the people in our program. They have so much to share and offer. I cannot image my experience without my fellow interns because they have really enriched my experience.

