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HEP/CAMP Intern

Week 7



After six weeks of intense work and dedication to finish my work in both my online class and my office, I decided to explore the city and learn more about the history of D.C.

On Monday after work, I went to the Air and Space museum. Honestly, I felt weird going to a museum after work because my daily routine since I arrived in D.C. was going

home after work to work on my online class. I have to admit that I had a strange feeling, however, this sensation went away as I visited the different exhibits at the airspace museum. The National Air and Space museum is one the coolest museums in D.C. Definitely, this museum is worth visiting.



Tuesday was one of the most exciting days of my life. I had the opportunity to visit the White House. Although there are a lot of things going on and tensions in the political environment, I'm glad that I had the privilege to visit the White House. As I was walking through the halls of the White House, I constantly looked back to see my path and how far I have come.

I saw all the struggles and sacrifices that both of my parents have made for me as well as those who have helped me to be in the place where I am now. It is crazy how much life can change in five years. Honestly, five years ago I never imagined myself spending my summer in D.C.

and having the opportunity to be inside the White House. This internship has taught me that anything is possible if you are willing to work hard and be persistent with your education. #Followyourdreams.



Wednesday was another good day. All the interns in the Department of Education had the opportunity to have lunch with U.S Secretary of Education, Betsy DeVos. She spent time with us and answered a couple of questions that ex high school teachers and interns had for her. Finally, we took a picture with secretary DeVos as part of the lunch program.

After work, Carlos and I decided to walk back home. It was super nice to walk back home together because we had the chance to appreciate the beautiful sunset as we walked by some of the monuments.

Secretary DeVos ->



Thursday was a really important and inspirational day because I graduated from the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute (CHCI). Before I came to D.C. I didn't know anything about CHCI but now that I only have one week left before I'm finished with my eight week internship, I feel like I have been part of CHCI for a long time. CHCI has made a huge impact in my life. It has given me the opportunity to learn new things, make new friends and to grow both personally and intellectually.





During the graduation ceremony, I was inspired by the motivational speeches from the congressmen who attended the event: Congressman Joaquin Castro, Congressman Luis Gutierrez, Congressman Tony Cardenas, Congressman Pete Aguilar, Congressman Luis Correa, Congressman Ruben Kihuen, and Congressman Saul Carbajal. I had the opportunity to talk and take pictures with some of the congressmen. I also had the honor to talk with Congressman Ruben Kihuen for thirty minutes. I found out that Congressman Kihuen was born in Jalisco, Mexico and when he moved to the Unites States, he also lived a similar experience as mine. I was so inspired by Congressman Kihuen’s story and when I shared a little bit of my story with him, he said, “Jose... I see myself in your persona. I can see in your eyes the dedication and determination...Echale ganas y si se puede!” When Congressman Kihuen said this to me, I was literally crying of happiness because finally I found someone to who I can relate to in many aspects.



Left:
Congressman
Saul Carbajal
(CA).
Right:
Congressman
Ruben Kihuen
(NV)



Thanks to CHCI, now I see politics with a different perspective and it has motivated me to attend law school and hopefully one day come back to D.C. and represent my Latino community in the House of Representatives. Thank you, HEP/CAMP Association for this amazing opportunity.



2017 Summer Congressional Interns