Rebeca Saray Griego July 24, 2017 - July 30, 2017

Never in my life did I imagine I could be as busy as Week 7 has been!

The beginning of the week was taken up mostly by me finishing up work at the Department of Education. I am so happy and excited for the social media posts I have been working on to be posted during Hispanic Heritage Month. Also, I am very proud of the conversion I did for the White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanics (WHIEEH) *Nuestra Historia; Nuestro Futuro,* which is the history of the initiative so far.

Wednesday Evening I attended a Nationals baseball game with my Supervisor Emmanuel Caudillo and the three other interns at the initiative. Bernadette, Roxanne, and Evan have been amazing to work with these past two months! They are all so passionate about education and I am honored to have worked with them! Thanks to the guidance of Emmanuel we have had a very successful summer each of us doing our individual projects and some projects we collaborated on together. I want to thank the WHIEEH for allowing me to be a part of the group and help them spread the message of the importance of education.





Thursday, I ran around all day! In the morning along with the WHIEEH I had the opportunity to present to Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute's (CHCI) Ready to Lead high school students. It was amazing to see new faces interested in knowing how educational legislation is passed and enforced.

From the presentation the WHIEEH interns and I ran to the White House to attend our tour. I had many mixed feeling while on the White House. While it was amazing to be standing inside of the White House, the residence of the United States President, I also felt unwilling to continue standing there. With everything that has been said and done by our current administration I really didn't want to be there. It is truly sad to hear such important figures making such important decision for the future of the country, for my future act and say the things they have. There truly are no words to explain the degree of disappointment I feel.

Thursday night, was our CHCI graduation. I am more than thankful to CHCI for allowing us to be a part of their Friday's programs and giving us such an abundance of knowledge. Being in DC is one thing but really getting to know all the city has to offer especially to our community is very important. Thanks to CHCI I went to places like PBS, Department of State, the Newseum, and many more places. In addition to going to different places, CHCI also gave us amazing presentation at the CHCI HQ, as I like to call it.



Friday, again we spent the day with CHCI. In the morning we met up at the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (OCC). The amount of knowledge we gained in the three hours of the presentation was absolutely amazing. Jimmy, the presenter gave us a lot of useful tips to manage our money, pay our student loans, and even how credit and credit cards work. This was one of the most helpful presentations I have attended in my entire life! The rest of the evening we went back to the CHCI HQ and had a presentation from the Hispanic Association of Corporate Responsibility (HACR). It was very eye opening to see how this association is helping the Hispanic community get to the board of Fortune 500 Companies.

From CHCI, Abi, Lupe, Gloria, and I ran back home to pack for New York! We arrived in New York at 12 am and had no idea how to get to the hotel we had booked. New York was truly an adventure after an adventure. We spent more time trying to get places than we did seeing things. Although the amount of people, cars, and pollution almost made us hate the city, I have to admit it was truly amazing to finally be there. The entire time I was there all I could think of was how excited my 10 year old self would be to know how far I've come! From standing in Times Square to seeing the Statue of Liberty, the entire journey was amazing and very tiring! Being able to see the 9/11 memorial was a very humbling experience and all I could think of was what those streets must have looked like on that day.



