

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



**Day Fifty: Saturday, July 29<sup>th</sup>**

At the beginning of the internship, I imagined that by this time I would be running around trying to visit every place there is to see. Kind of but at the same time I was not because, I know I will be back. I went to the Kennedy Center and watched various dance performances and enjoyed the beautiful views of the city. Of course, I made a trip to go to Georgetown University because it is one of my favorite spots in DC. I also enjoyed a bike ride around town. I was not too worried about the things I was doing but more so who I was doing them with. I have met some amazing people, who are inspiring and encouraging. I am very thankful to have met them and for their contribution to my experience.

**Day Fifty-One: Sunday, July 30<sup>th</sup>**

I had brunch with some of the interns and we talked about our experience. I am starting to come to the realization that soon I will not be around them. I hope to bring back what they have taught me to me to others. I also went out to dinner and on a walk. It was such a wonderful Sunday and my night concluded on a hammock out where we live with some of the other CHCI interns. I enjoyed everyone's company but I realized I missed seeing the beautiful stars light up the sky in my hometown. One of the things we talked about was peer mentorship and its importance. My supervisor had mentioned how much she has benefited from internships, conference, and fellowships.

**Day Fifty-Two: Monday, July 31<sup>st</sup>**

This whole summer I have heard bits and pieces about the annual director's conference. I am very thankful for the amazing CAMP staff that I have been so fortunate to have and was eager to meet the other amazing people from the HEP/CAMP Association. Unfortunately, my CAMP staff were not able to attend but I was sure to mingle with the other CAMP staff from Washington State. We were asked to go in front of all the directors and introduce ourselves and share an experience. I was not expecting this but wanted to make sure that everyone in that room knew they were making a difference and that I was thankful.



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**Day Fifty-Three: Tuesday, August 1<sup>st</sup>**

I was so fortunate to be able to do Hill visits with the HEP/CAMP directors from Washington State. It felt amazing to be able to use my story throughout this internship during these visits. Later that day, all the interns gathered and gave out superlative awards. Amongst the interns I was voted “Most Likely to Befriend a Stranger”. Before presenting the award, the winner had to say something kind and I was very surprised to hear that the intern hired as a full-time staffer talked so positively about me and thanked me for always bringing light to the room.



**Day Fifty-Four: Wednesday, August 2<sup>nd</sup>**

I don't even know how to feel anymore. Its Wednesday and I've fallen in love with the area and the things that can happen here. I really miss my family and wish they too could experience some of the East Coast with me. It is very different in comparison to my hometown. D.C. it is such a unique and inspiring place. These few days left here, I am going to enjoy them the most I can. I hope that one day, my family will have the opportunity to enjoy D.C. just as I

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**Day Fifty-Five: Thursday, August 3<sup>rd</sup>**

WHITE HOUSE TIME! As a child, I dreamed of going to the White House but never imagined I would actually ever get to go. The first few days in D.C. I walked by it but today, I was going inside it. Normally, White House tours need to be booked 3 months in advance and the slots get full quickly. I was fortunate to have a friend who has some connections and got us a reservation. I was very excited to go. After the White House visit, I went to the office and enjoyed my last day of work. The office kind of threw me a party and provided ice cream as farewell. They asked me so many questions and even the Chief of Staff attended. I felt appreciated and they reminded me that I was welcomed to request a recommendation

**Day Fifty-Six: Friday, August 4<sup>th</sup>**

Last CHCI of my D.C Internship experience. I was reassured that we are needed in these spaces. We talked about our experience and our coordinator Ashlynn shared the word “deserving”. What she said in support to this word really spoke to me. I beyond thankful for this experience.

**Day Fifty-Seven: Saturday, August 5<sup>th</sup>**

My last day in D.C. and I am just a mess. I felt like it was time to go back home to my loved ones but I also wanted to stay and continue my development. This internship made me feel like I had a purpose and reassured me that I must be an advocate when I go back home. “My biggest fear is to go back home and be the same” is what one of the other HEP/CAMP interns told me and I feel like I really relate. I owe it to everyone that brought me here, offered their guidance and supported me along the way to use what I learned to be the best version of myself. My journey does not end here. This is just the beginning.