

Jose Gallegos Ruiz

HEP/CAMP Intern

Week # 8



My last weekend in D.C. was memorable. On Sunday, Carlos, Kim, Chris and I decided to hang out with Nestor and Nathan (interns from the Department of Energy). We went to Georgetown to kayak on the Potomac River. Honestly, kayaking was one of the best things I did in D.C. because I had the opportunity to exercise and enjoy the amazing view of both Georgetown harbor and the Washington Monument. For dinner, we went to this delicious Korean restaurant in Georgetown. After dinner, we walked home and when I arrived at my apartment, I decided to start packing before my departure home the next

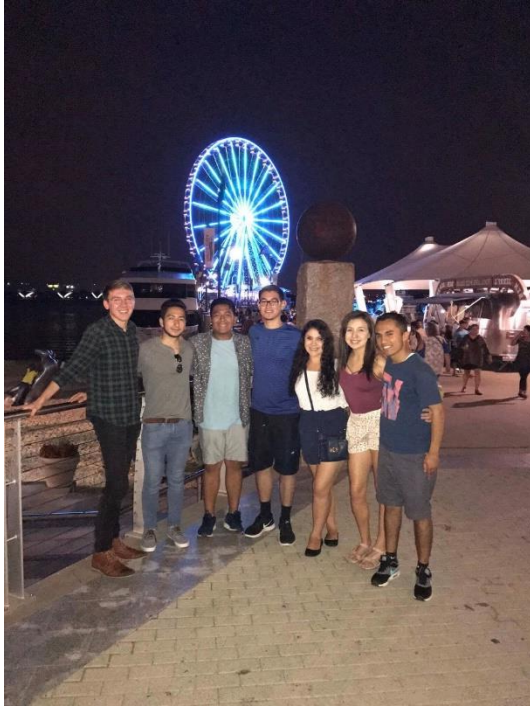
weekend.

My last week of work at OME was busy and amazing. On Monday, the HEP/CAMP Association had their annual meeting in which they talked about the Association, incoming new projects and they presented the HEP/CAMP interns to the rest of the association. It was an honor for me to represent the Mendocino College CAMP program during the HEP/CAMP Association meeting. I also had the opportunity to see Jackie Orozco (Mendocino College HEP Director) and Lidia Sanchez (Mendocino College CAMP Counselor). During my presentation to the HEP/CAMP Association, I was constantly looking at Jackie and Lidia. I saw in their eyes tears of joy and happiness. I wished that Monica Flores (Mendocino College CAMP Director) had been there too, because she has played a significant role in my life during these past five years. Monica and Jackie have seen me grow since the first day I met them. Thank you, Monica, Jackie and Lidia, for helping me and motivating every day to do my best in life.



Tuesday and Wednesday, we had the Annual Directors Meeting at the Department of Education. As part of one of my projects during my internship, I was in charge of coordinating this event with Steve, one of my coworkers. Additionally, I had to assign small tasks to the other HEP and CAMP interns. Although I had a lot of work to do, I managed to spend some time with Jackie and Lidia as well to network with other HEP and CAMP directors from different parts of the country.

Thursday was my last day at OME, however I had to help Carla (my coworker) with the New Directors Orientation (NDO). I had a great time helping Carla with the NDO. At the end of the day, it was really hard to say goodbye to the OME family because during my internship they challenged me to work hard and never give up. Thank you OME for such an amazing experience.



life.

Friday night was a hard night. Carlos, Bianca and I went out to a farewell dinner with a couple of the interns from the Department of Energy. We had a good time together, yet, it was hard to say goodbye to them. After dinner, Carlos, Bianca and I came back to home, we checked out of our dorms, we said goodbye to Chris and we traveled to Crystal City to spend the night with the CHCI interns. We spent the whole night talking about our lives and how much this experience has motivated us to make a change in society. The next morning, I said “goodbye and see y’all soon” to this incredible group of individuals who made my summer one of the best summer of my



When I boarded my plane, I looked to the window and I saw the Washington memorial then I thought in my family and about all the great things that I have done during my internship. I smiled because I knew that no matter how far I was from home, I knew that my family was with me. This was my experience in D.C. This experience has changed my life and it has given me the strength to work hard and to follow my dreams. Mr. Patrick Doone, thank you for coordinating this internship and for making my D.C. experience easy and memorable. Finally Thank you, HEP/CAMP Association for showing me that there are dreams without borders.