

Aleysa Garcia

Journal - Week 1

It is an overwhelming sense of all emotions coming together at once. I left home, I left my family and friends, but I was also embarking on an amazing experience. They all rushed at once, and for a while, I was trying to make sense of them all. Excitement, fear, joy, sadness, and eagerness all flowing through my veins. I have never been so far away from my family, not on the other side of the country. So it is a time of transition, but nevertheless is something I look forward to. For the bird to fly out of the nest.

The first day was tiresome. I remember my mentors telling me that the weather would be different in DC. That it would be humid, and hot. Well the first day that we arrived it was raining and I thought "Wow, Oregon weather followed me here, if this is how it will be then I can handle this". Well, the next day I soon learned that the weather in DC is not cold and rainy like that first day, it's actually very hot! I cannot leave anywhere without my water bottle, sunglasses, and my umbrella. On the drive to GW, I saw some glimpses of the monuments that I had googled, and seen on TV. Oh! And the sunsets, they are so beautiful.

For a few days, the other interns and I were a little awkward, getting to know one another. However, in the upcoming days we formed a close bond. We learned to cook together, even if we almost burned the stove (all turned out great, there was no fire). Get lost, have adventures together, and look out for one another. Honestly, I think that we are a great group. We all get along great, and we don't leave anyone behind.

On the upcoming week, we had training with the other CHCI interns. At first, it was also a bit awkward, but now they treat us the same as their fellow companions. I enjoyed all of the workshops that we had during our training, but I have to admit that my favorite part was Thursday because we got to go to the offices that each of us will be working at. I got to meet my supervisor, and I am so excited to be working with the White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanics. He already made some comments on the projects I will be working on, and let me tell you all that I am beyond thrilled to take participation in them. Our educational system has many improvements that need to be made, but we have also made many achievements. I am looking forward to being in the office and meeting the staff as well as the other interns that I will be working with. Also, and you might not believe this because sometimes I have to pinch myself to make sure it's true, but we got to be in the meeting space where the Secretary of Education has his meetings. I know! It was awesome! The staff of the Migrant Education are so nice; they even had some staff members skype with us because they wanted to meet us. I felt so special, and it was a great moment to thank them for all the hard work that they do that is benefiting so many migrant students in the nation. That was my personal highlight of the week, because if were not for those programs I

would probably not be in the position I am in, or have met the wonderful people that have become my mentors and friends. Thank you!

My other extracurricular activities have involved learning the metro, and also alternative routes to work, learning how to survive in this heat, and learning a new thing each and every day. This week, we have gone out to explore the city, we saw the Lincoln memorial, Vietnam Veteran's memorial, the National WWII memorial, the Air and Space museum, ate at a Peruvian restaurant, Italian restaurant, meet wonderful people, and I am having the time of my life. There is so much that I want to see, explore, and eat that I am afraid there won't be enough time. Right now, two months may feel like an eternity, but time is relevant to the amount of fun I will be having, so that may not feel like two months. Tomorrow is Memorial day, and we are planning on visiting the cemetery, going to a festival, and doing homework. Yes, I am still not done with school, in two more weeks I will have finished my first year as a college student. It is hard to believe that I will be finishing my first year at Washington DC, as an intern. In those first few days at Oregon State, I would have never thought that all of the amazing things that happened throughout the school year, but here I am. Speaking of which, I would like to thank OSU CAMP, for giving me this amazing opportunity, y'all are amazing. Truly, the help, mentors, and friends have made a transformative experience for me. Also, HEP/CAMP association for choosing me as one of the interns, this experience is already unforgettable and it is only week one. To Patrick, for having patience with us, getting to know us, and being there for us when we are far away from home. Lastly, to my mother my motivation, without her constant support, encouragement, and love I would be nothing. Love you Mamá!



CAMP Interns: Patrick (USF), Monse, Crystal, Jasmine, Aleya, José





Our first home made meal 😊  
(my mom would be proud of us)

