

Gabriel R. Angulo

Weekly Journal: 1

An intensely amazing week has passed since my arrival at the University of Washington, in Seattle! Being a scholar of the Doris Duke Conservation Scholars Program has not only provided me with an opportunity to grow as an individual, but to also impact the growth of those in my community. By emphasizing the inclusion of a culturally diverse conservation workforce, we can all make a difference together.

Due to the lack of a thorough and in-depth understanding of biodiversity conservation, I felt that my cooperation and capabilities were limited compared to others. However, I have devoted my fullest attention towards completing the readings and assignments that were assigned to us. This has led me to feel more comfortable and confident with my efforts as a conservationist!

I come from a disadvantaged Hispanic household and I have a drive to move forward and help others move forward with me because it is our time to shine! Before being exposed to many environmental topics, we were exposed to the influence and significance socialization has in our communities. Additionally, different forms of oppression were addressed; all with correlations to conservation. Many privileged people believe that minority groups lack the consideration of conservation and thus, I have a desire to combat this stereotype and demonstrate otherwise.

Throughout the week, we spent much of our time in the classroom elaborating on topics and issues, particularly through group discussions with educators. I was able to interact and connect with many professionals that reside within the Seattle area. Additionally, I was really excited to visit and hike at the Cedar River Watershed, which provides high quality water to the Seattle region. We also visited the Ballard Locks to learn about the environmental history of Seattle and the conservation of the local biodiversity and human welfare. I realized that I really enjoyed bird watching, which I did at the Union Bay Natural Area and within the University's campus. We were also able to visit Discovery Park, which appears to be a forest within the city and is also right next to the ocean! This helps both the ecology of the city and the social livelihood of the community.

Overall, this week has been amazing! I am beginning to establish a camaraderie with my peers during all of our group discussions and during our late night studies. I have tried many new varieties of foods and was even able to do some intense rock climbing today. I am looking forward to the upcoming weeks, since we will be leaving Seattle for two weeks and will be traveling and camping within the Cascade region.

I have an enormous amount of appreciation for everyone who has assisted me towards being a part of this internship. Without the genuine care of the CAMP program, my participation here would not have been possible. A sincere thank you!

