

Week 2
Perla Bravo

This week I began working with the White House Initiative on the Educational Excellence for Hispanics (WHIEEH). On Monday I went to the Department of Education and waited for my supervisor to come and sign me in, since there had not been an I.D. created for me yet. My supervisor and I headed towards the I.D. office where I created my I.D. Once that was done we headed to the office where we met up with people from the WHIEEH. It was so nice to meet all the interns in my office as well as learn more about the projects they are working on. My fellow WHIEEH



interns, just like those from CHCI, come from all over the nation. It was so wonderful meeting them, and we were able to snap a quick picture for our Instagram office page. After work I, along with the other CAMP interns, went to the Head Start (HS) program event in the same building we had received DACA/DAPA training a week prior. It was wonderful to learn more about the work the Head Start program was doing. One of my favorite parts was when the HS interns shared their story with the audience. Hearing their stories was inspirational and I learned very soon that there was a strong resemblance between the stories of CAMP interns and the Head Start interns. Like us, they have similar backgrounds and stories. It was exciting to see other young Latinos pursuing education and accomplishing great things. Cleo, the Head Start coordinator gave the CAMP interns a

shout-out, and gave one especially to me and a fellow CAMP intern for having gone through the Head Start program when we were younger. The next day was an eventful one at the Department of Education. Earlier that day one of my co-workers went downstairs and found our detail for the office of the WHIEEH. They talked and she requested that each intern go to her office because she wanted to get to know us. After talking to us, she requested that three of us, including me, work on a project with her. I am so excited to begin working with her on this since it will benefit so many young DACA students. That day after work I went on a walk to the Lincoln Memorial. I enjoy sitting on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial and looking out at the Washington monument and the Capitol building in the far distance. It's become my go to place in the evenings. On Wednesday I was invited to a meeting with the Department of Migrant Education in Secretary Arne Duncan's meeting room. Once I arrived we met with other migrant students who were with a program called Close Up. They took the students to many places in D.C. It was exciting to meet young Latinos that wanted to attend college and were working hard to achieve just that. These young students re-instilled the need for me to go back to my community and help others. One of the biggest factors that has aided me to get to where I am today, are the mentors I have had. I want to be that person for someone and I hope to accomplish this once I get back to Washington State. On Thursday morning we

were able to meet with Senator Tim Kaine and learn more about his work and were filmed by Univision. After lunch I was able to meet with another staff member from the WHIEEH. I mentioned to her that I want to become a Pediatric Oncologist, and then she told me that she had worked at a cancer organization and was willing to give me a tour of the building and would try to set up a meeting with admissions counselors as well as with the creator of the HPV vaccine. I am so excited for this! I was also invited by CHCI to a dinner with an organization next month, Chevron paid for our tickets! I also found out that I have several White House visits next month. It is unbelievable the amount of opportunities there are! On Friday I had CHCI training, and was able to learn more about the Peace Corps, as well as learn more



about Teach for America. After training I was able to meet with my co-workers and watch a play at the Hispanic Theatre Gala. The play was certainly interesting and very informative on an issue that exists to this day. I am so thankful to work with such caring, kind-hearted individuals. The WHIEEH interns made plans to attend Jazz in the Park next Friday afternoon, I can't wait! On Saturday a couple of CAMP interns and I headed towards the Potomac River with

plans to kayak! Prior to this I had never been kayaking before. I was excited to get in and start going! Once we checked in we got in the kayaks, and I began rowing towards, a massive bridge. The water was warm, the weather was nice, and a cool breeze ran through. Kayaking was so fun and something I would love to do again! I am so thankful for having had such a wonderful week filled with exciting moments and events.