

Crystal Gallegos
The National HEP/CAMP Association Summer Internship
Journal
Week 3

So far in this internship there have been a few recurring themes. “The possibilities are endless,” and “take advantage of everything.” All of the meetings that I am invited to attend and all of the tasks that are assigned to me give more validity to these themes.

Like I mentioned in my last journal, one of the things that my supervisor asked me to do was interview everyone in the office. So far this has been one of my favorite parts of the internship. It fascinates me to learn where everyone started and how everyone got to the Office of Migrant Education. There is so much to learn from everyone’s backgrounds. One person in my office has a very impressive background in medicine and working for a very prominent pharmaceutical company. Another has amazing experiences to share about time they spent at the Peace corps in Western Africa, while others have been working with migrant families and students all of their lives. I have learned throughout my life, and specifically here in D.C. that those who are best at their jobs are the most passionate.

Everyone at the Office of Migrant Education (OME) truly enjoys their jobs and works very hard to do their best. This is not the only great thing that I have to say about the OME. Everyone who works in the office is very friendly and helpful. It is not just an office, it is also a team and a family. I am so grateful for being able to work in an office where everyone is so helpful and doesn’t treat me like an intern.

Another highlight of my week was getting to see Representative Linda T. Sanchez of California. She is truly an example for many Latinas around the country. She is a Chairwoman for both the Congressional Hispanic Caucus and the Congressional Hispanic Institute. It really fascinated me how she gets to serve in congress with her sister who is also a congresswoman. It reminds me of my own 4 sisters and all of the amazing things that we can accomplish together.

On Friday we got to visit the Office of the Comptroller of Currency. We learned valuable skills about our money and how to handle our credit. At the OCC we also got to learn a little bit more about student loans. The piece of information that stuck out the most to me was about budgeting. These kinds of skills are especially important not only as a college student but also as an intern. The skills and knowledge learned here are things that I will use all of my life.

After going to the OCC, we went to PBS. I was not able to stay there for long because I went home this weekend for my brother’s wedding. I am very grateful that I got the opportunity to go see my family. I was reminded of why I am here; I’m here because of my family. They are the reason that I am able to be in D.C. and they are the reason that I am trying my best and striving to get the most out of this experience.



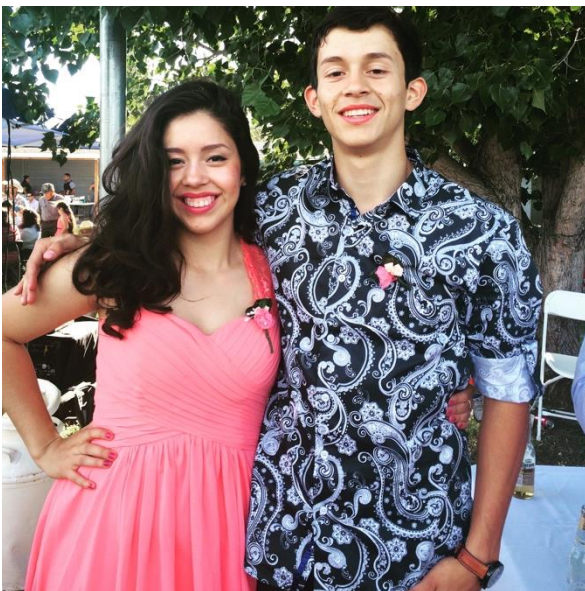
Aleysa taking selfies on my phone.



Tinga for dinner!!!



Aleysa and I love selfies!



My younger brother and I at the wedding!



OCC welcomes all interns with neat name plates.