

Jasmine Meraz

Week 3

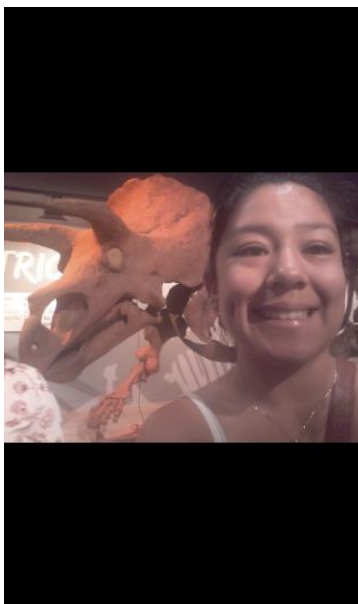


My week started off with running errands at work; although the errand that I had to run was pretty fun. I had the opportunity to run documents to get signed by all the Oregon Representatives' offices and in doing so ran into Peter DeFazio in his own office! This is the second time I've seen him in person and I couldn't be happier to see someone who represents my district just go about his day like he's a normal person just like you and me. The highlight of my week was getting the opportunity to have lunch with the Senator Merkley and all the staff to just talk about the issues we feel is important to discuss in a private setting. Also, I gave a tour to two women who were military veterans and met while they were deployed and we became really close friends. To me this meant a lot because it shows that under circumstances they were in, they were still able to build close relationship that lasted them beyond their time serving in the military.

This weekend was probably one of the best weekends I've had since being in Washington D.C. We started off our weekend by making homemade hamburgers on Friday night in celebration of Aleysa and I being finally done with school after spending the first 3 weeks doing homework and preparing for finals. Being in school while starting this internship was really hard on me because I wanted to put all my time in school but it was hard because I had to dedicate a lot of time at the office. However, thanks to my amazing mother and boyfriend I was able to stay on track in order to finish classes to the best of my abilities. Finishing my first year of college was a relief off my shoulder, it just sucked that I was not at Oregon State University to physically finish the year with the rest of my CAMP family. Although I have felt homesick a couple of times, the

encouragement from my family has made it easier for me to be here which makes it that much more special to me knowing that they appreciate what I'm doing in order to better myself for them.

This weekend has been the most productive one we've had so far and I couldn't be happier about it. Saturday we spent half of the day at the National Archives museum which was the best experience ever! I had the opportunity to see the Declaration of Independence, The Constitution, and The Bill of Rights, which was the most incredible thing being able to physically see these important documents that we've spent years learning about in school, and now being able to see all these papers in there bits of glory made me realize that these papers weren't meant to signify the people and the power of change. The second half of the day was spend at the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History, which brought out the science-loving child I grew up being. To be able to see so many researchers from so many fields working together to make a difference in the world for the better made me think of other people who are doing the same thing, through different field of course but all focusing on changing the world to make it a better place for all humanity to observe and preserve.



We spent more time at the National Museum of the American Indian discovering the land and heritage of those who came before us and claimed this land theirs prior to colonialism in both of the Americas. This museum has been by far the most emotional and meaningful museum for me because my father's side of the family are indigenous people from Mexico and it made me realize how little I knew about my own heritage as well as how many of us have forgotten where we come from or even have evidence of our ancestors. These American Indians have taken the responsibility to preserve and share their culture with the outside world in hopes to gain recognition for their people. I want to be able to talk to my future kids about my heritage but before that I need to discover what my heritage really is because a lot of it has been lost through generation of colonialism in Mexico. One day I hope that I will be able to speak the language of my ancestors and preserve this culture that is so beautiful and so meaningful. Coming to this museum gave me hope that I can restore the culture that has been lost as well as give other culture hope that can do the same.

