

**Monserrath Sanchez**  
**HEP/CAMP Journal**  
**Week 3**

**Monday June 6, 2016:** I was the only intern in the office on Monday. In the morning I passed out the newspapers and I had my meeting with the Legislative Director, Jasmine. She offered me my first project, in which I will have to summarize three documents that were released by the department of treasury. Throughout the day there were many calls from constituents with a variety of concerns and comments. During my free time I began to read the project Jasmine assigned me, I was able to learn a lot within the very first pages. Most of the contents were fairly new to me, but I feel proud of myself for accepting a project that is out of my comfort zone. The rest of the day went so well that I did not even notice that the work day was over. After work, I went to the dorms and had dinner with everyone else. I enjoy dinner time because it reminds me of home; we all sit and dine together while sharing with everyone about how our day went.



**Tuesday June 7, 2016:** Once again, I was the only intern in the office, and I must say I absolutely love being the only intern in the office. I am exposed to an extremely different environment when I am the only intern in the office. On Monday morning, I introduced myself to the Chief of Staff; he was very welcoming and invited me to have lunch with him. During lunch, he told me how he got interested into politics and advice he had for me as a new intern. On Monday I left to go run an errand and when I came back the environment in the office had shifted completely. It was so fast paced and everyone was on their toes, I soon realized that the change was due to Congressman Becerra being in the office. There was so much to do in such a small time frame. During that time rush, I answered the phone and the Democratic Leader, Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi was on the phone, and I tried so hard not to panic! Later on that day Dustin, a legislative assistant, assigned me the task to get signatures from different offices. I thought it was so fun because I was able to meet Congresswoman Elizabeth Esty, (CT-5th) the Representative of Connecticut's 5th district. I was enjoying walking around and getting signatures that I did not even realize that I had to go back to the office to grab my bags.

**Wednesday June 8, 2016:** On Wednesday morning Vivian (an intern) returned to the office. I passed out the mail to all of the staff members and started to log in constituent mail. Once I was done logging in the first batch of mail, I went off to finish getting all of the signatures. I honestly enjoy getting signatures because I am able to see the decorations from each based off of their state and district, also due to the high possibilities of meeting a member of Congress. That morning my favorite office was probably Congressman Grijalva's because as soon as you walk in there is a big poster that says "DREAMers Welcome", I felt joyful for all of the students who

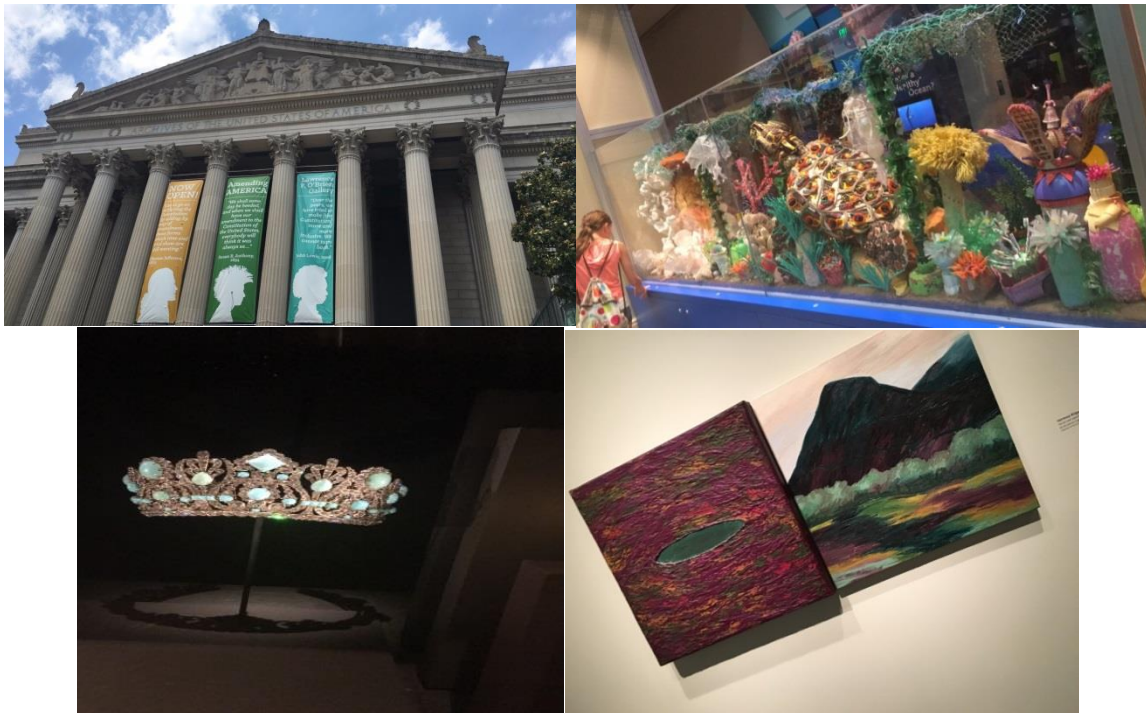
benefit from Obama's deferred action. That morning I was able to meet Congresswoman Barbara Lee (CA-13th) and Congressman Mark Pocan (WI-2nd) they were both really friendly and welcoming. I was enjoying walking around and getting signatures that I did not even notice that my lunch time had already passed. I had lunch and continued working on the project the Legislative Director assigned me. As, I continued to read the articles and answer phone time flew by, soon it was time to go back to the dorms to rest.



**Thursday June 9, 2016:** On Thursday morning I arrived to work early to be able to finish my morning tasks before I went with all of the CHCI interns to get meet Congresswoman Linda T. Sanchez. Congresswoman Sanchez was very inspiring especially to me as a young Chicana. She has worked very hard for women in Congress and has created a path for future women coming into Congress. Unfortunately, Congresswoman Sanchez was not able to stay for long because she had to attend a Congressional Hispanic Caucus (CHC) meeting where she resides as the chairwoman. I kept on remembering Congresswoman Sanchez's words throughout the entire day and made me realize that I as a young Chicana have the most power to impact my community back home. The rest of the day was very productive. For dinner that night Jasmine and I went to a Kaz Sushi Bistro. It was a very interesting restaurant, from the outside it looked somewhat abandoned but once you were inside it had a modern restaurant setting.



**Friday June 10, 2016:** Friday was programming day with CHCI. We started of the morning by going to Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (OCC). They had a small workshop for us and I thought it was interesting because they spoke about student loans, and what you should do when you have to get a student loan. Later on we went to the PBS headquarters where we met the Senior Vice President, Juan Sepulveda. He told us about how he began getting into politics. I really enjoyed his talk with us because he really had a lot of faith in us going back home and making some type of change within our communities by stating, “Change politically will not happen in D.C., it will happen back home.” He also stressed the importance in having mentors in our lives so that they can advise us when needed, and to always be proud of your roots.



**Saturday June 11, 2016 and Sunday June 12, 2016:** Saturday morning Jose made pancakes for breakfast, and I must admit that his pancakes were very good. On Saturday we were able to go to the National Archives and The Natural History Museum. I think we were all super excited to go to the National Archives to see the original documents that were created by our founding fathers. It was so amazing to realize that this 4th of July the Declaration of Independence will be 240 years old. I enjoyed my time inside the National Archives. Once we left the National Archives, we went to the Natural History Museum; there I saw beautiful gems and rocks. Once we had finished looking around we were all extremely hungry and we went to go eat at District Taco. On Sunday morning, Jasmine made pancakes and we decided to head over to the Native American Museum. There was an event going on inside so we decided to go look at the exhibitions first and then go watch the dances. Before I went to go watch the dances I had to go buy a spearhead necklace, I always wanted one so when I saw it, I did not even hesitate in buying it. After I bought the necklace, I went down to see the dances. We were invited to dance the ‘Friendship Dance’. Later that day we went to go groceries shopping at Columbia Heights, and we began to prepare ourselves for a new week full of amazing experiences.