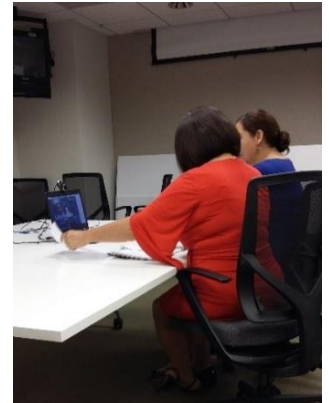


Week 4
Aleysa Garcia
6/11/2016-6/18/2016

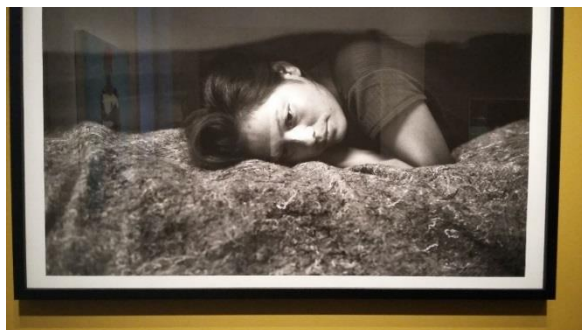
I had an amazing week at work! Working with the Hispanic Initiative makes me feel not just an intern but part of their staff. There are amazing people in the Department of Education. It was my first time doing a Google hangout and the Initiative had a live DACA hangout so that people could know more about the topic and see the bright spots around the country that are supporting the DACA community. Sometimes there can be many scams and this gave the opportunity for people to see organizations that can provide factious information. In addition, I was able to attend the Summit for Women in the Department of Education. It was great seeing women come together for a common purpose and goal. However, it was also frustrating hearing that Title 9 has not yet been enforced in school, after being passed years ago.



After work on Tuesday, Crystal and I went to the Art Gallery. It had a variety of artwork, from modern to not so modern, a lot of portraits and some great statues. My favorite part was the social justice portraits and artwork. Seeing great leaders such as Martin Luther King Jr, Cesar Chavez, Dolores Huerta, and other photographs that depicted the struggles of people of color, women, and LGBTQ.



On Wednesday, we attended the Tri-Caucus reception. At this reception, we were able to meet interns from the Congressional Black Caucus and the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus. It was amazing seeing other interns as well as congressmen and congresswomen from all of the caucuses. Throughout meeting people, I actually meet a man from Michoacán, and his hometown is 30 minutes away from mine! My favorite congressmen who attended the reception was Luis Gutierrez who represents the 4th District.



We also went to a crepe restaurant. It was amazing, the crepes were so good. Crystal's friend came to visit and it was inspiring to meet another CAMPe from Idaho. I had a great time meeting her and eating at the Lauro Plaza.

Friday programming was intellectual and challenging. We had the great opportunity to discuss taboos in the Latinx community. One of the topics was sex. Yes, sex. In the Latinx community, sex can correlate to family values,

gender roles, and healthcare. I was shocked to find out that one in every three Latinxs do not have proper healthcare. Which is outrageous, it should not be this way. One of the most exciting things that happened in this discussion was the speaker was from Forest Grove, Oregon. We both got excited when we found out that we were fellow Oregonians, in the east, there is not many of us. The other taboo session that we had was the Assimilation taboo. We had a great discussion on Latinidad and what it meant or not meant to be a Latinx. This made me understand that a person regardless if they have not had a Latinx experience like most of the immigrant Latinx that they are still Latinx.

On the weekend, we went to volunteered at Casa Ruby, which helps LGBTQ youth that are homeless. It was a great experience reaching out and helping this community. It also gave me time to connect to students that I had not had the time to meet on a more personal level. After volunteering our time, we went to Los Hermanos, which is a Dominican restaurant. The food was AMAZING! It was delicious. Truly, and for a great price. I had never had Dominican food, and there were many similarities between the Dominican food and the Mexican food. My favorite part of the dish was the bananas and they were so good! In addition, during Friday programming we were notified that Macy's gave us a 200 gift card! I was so happy, who doesn't like free clothes? So thank you Macy's, I look forward to shopping for some professional clothes.

My highlight was seeing fire flies, I remember playing around in my grandparents yard in Mexico chasing after the colorful flies, so that I could paint papers with their tales and have them light in the dark. In Oregon, I have not see any, so it was almost magical seeing them light up.

