

Week 5

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6/19/2016-6/26/2016

I cannot believe that one-month has passed since the first day that I arrived in DC! So much has happened within the last month, I have been exposed to places I had never thought I would have been a year ago. This week was great! On Monday ambassadors from Latin American countries gathered for meetings with several offices in the Department of Education. The conversations were about how to best serve the community in general through education.

On Tuesday, we had programming on story telling. In a group of about 12 or so CHCI interns, we were placed for three days for this workshop. I got the amazing opportunity to hear and share the stories of journey. During this time, I also got to know people on a more personal level. It was a safe space, which made it a little easier to share. After our workshop, Jose and I had to rush to the Hill because we were attending an event to celebrate Congressman

Hinojosa's journey. It was a great opportunity to be in this event and hear his personal journey as well as take a picture with him. I also got to meet TRiO alumni and a past intern that used to intern for the Hispanic Initiative. In part, because of him CAMP, TRiO, HEP, and other programs that help first-generation students are here today. Congressman Hinojosa and other great individuals have been advocating for these programs.



On Wednesday, the interns in my office and I went to a Supreme Court Tour. I had my first staff check in meeting! In the Supreme Court we got to be in the court where all the Justices sit and where the magic happens.

Thursday was a sad day! The Supreme Court had their votes on DAPA, which was split. I felt for all of my friends that were looking forward to this day for a positive outcome. We need an immigration

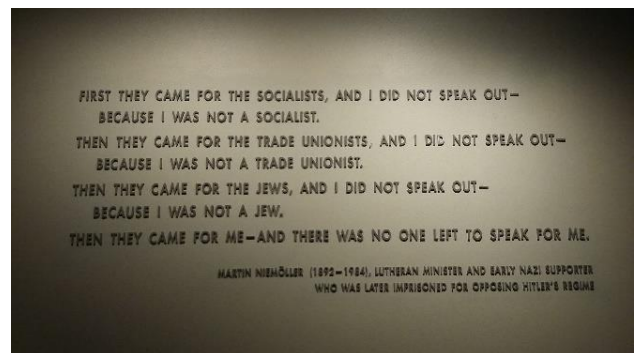
reform; it is about keeping families together, about giving people a chance, and supporting them. As a result, on Friday after work, we stood in solidarity with DACA/DAPA community in front of the Supreme Court as a form of a silent demonstration.

On Friday, we went to the Department of the State for a graduate school panel. My favorite part was a workshop with a professor from Georgetown University. He showed us a picture of old backpacks, asked us to describe it, simplistic comments, but as we continued to describe it, we discovered that the backpacks are from immigrants who are trying to cross the border and either they leave them behind or they are left with the person.



During the weekend, we went kayaking, which was a lot of fun!!! Crystal was my partner and at the beginning we could not get the rhythm, but after a while we got it going. Let me tell you all that the Potomac River is very unclean! In the afternoon, we made tacos and horchata, so we invited some of the CHCI interns to come and enjoy a traditional Mexican dish. We also visited the Basilica of the National Shrine of the

Immaculate Conception. It was a beautiful basilica, and we got to stay for mass. Afterwards, we went to the Holocaust museum. The feeling of the museum was somber, it made me think how many injustices have happened in our history and continue to happen. The part that got to me



was the shoe exhibit. It reminded me of the backpacks and how each one belonged to a human being. Each one mattered, each one had family, a future, and it was all taken away.

As the weeks, pass by I want to make the most of my time in DC. I look forward to spending the 4th in the heart of our nation, and learning about the unlimited possibilities that can happen.