

Crystal Gallegos
The National HEP/CAMP Association Summer Internship
Journal
Week 5

This week was full of so much excitement and trying new things. Monday started out great and was a busy day at work. The White House Initiative for Academic Excellence for Hispanics and the Department of Ed. hosted ambassadors from 16 different Latin American countries. The purpose of the meeting was so that the department could establish a connection with the embassies and also so they could exchange information that will help Hispanic students in the country succeed academically. Monday night was also an exciting time. Dr. Lisa Ramirez invited the five of us, and a few other HACU interns to an event at the Kennedy Center. The event was called the Presidential Scholars. A select group of high school students from all over the country compete to be a part of this show. There was so many talents represented, including singing and poetry. We were all in awe of the incredible performances we saw.

Tuesday we were invited by Irene Bueno to attend a reception in honor of congressmen Ruben Hinojosa from Texas who is retiring from congress after serving as a representative for nearly 20 years. I really enjoyed getting to meet him because he is a big supporter of HEP and CAMP. It was very important to me to be able to thank him personally because if it wasn't for congressmen like him, these programs might not be around now. It was also an honor to meet Congressman Raul Grijalva as well as Congressman Ruben Gallego at that event.

The next day I participated in an all day training for CHCI at Vanguard Communications. At the training we learned how to tell our stories in a way that connected to the audience. We learned different techniques on ways to frame our stories and that way better connect with our audiences. It was also a great way to learn more about others that I don't usually interact with. It was incredible to hear everyone else's stories.

On Thursday the Supreme Court made a decision regarding DACA/DAPA. After work that day, I went to the Supreme Court to support my fellow peers who were affected by this ruling. Friday programming with CHCI we got to visit the Department of State and listen to a panel from different employees there. It was interesting to learn about all of the career possibilities at that agency.

On Friday, later the day, the interns and I decided to go watch a movie at Georgetown. We watched "Finding Dory." Although it is a children's Disney movie, we have to admit that we got a little emotional during some parts of the film.

On Saturday we went kayaking at the Potomac River. I had never been kayaking so I didn't know what to expect, but I had a lot of fun with my friends. Aleya and I made a good team on the double kayak! Afterwards we made tacos at our apartment and invited some of the CHCI interns. We are already planning the next dinner at our apartment with them! Early Sunday morning we woke up and went to mass at the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. It was unbelievably beautiful. All of the architecture and design was unreal. As I walked through every chapel and looked at the

statues of saints, everything just felt so holy. It was an amazing place to visit and I would recommend it to anyone regardless of religion.



Having fun with our 3D glasses just before the movie.



My first time kayaking in the Potomac River.



Reception with Rep. Ruben Hinojosa.



Quick Selfie at the Shrine after mass.



A walk along the Potomac river after the movie.