

Monserrath Sanchez

HEP/CAMP Journal

Week 5

This week has been AWESOME!

Monday June 20, 2016: I was excused from work on Monday because CHCI organized a storytelling workshop for all of the interns and I mine was assigned for Monday. The storytelling was with the Vanguard Communications, I along with the other interns that attended that morning did not know what to expect from that training. The purpose of this storytelling workshop was to be able to tell people your personal story affectively. For me it was kind of difficult due to the fact that I do not really like telling people much about myself because I can get really emotional. I learned that I do not have to say stuff that still affects me and that I although I feel that my story is very different than others, it is still important. Although it was a long training, I can say that I really enjoyed it because I was able to listen to the other CHCI interns personal story and get to know them a little more than just talking to them at work or Friday Programming. Once I was finished with the training I headed back to the dorm to meet up with the other interns and Dr. Lisa Ramirez, the Director of Migrant Education in the Office of Elementary and Secondary Education at the U.S. Department of Education. Dr. Ramirez had invited us to attend the 2016 Presidential Scholars showcase which was held at the Kennedy Center. After having a day full of storytelling, it was great to see how these young talented high schoolers explained their own stories through dance, art, poem, and singing. Once it was all done, I could tell we were all in awe and so amazed by the amazing talent these students had.



Tuesday June 21, 2016: On Tuesday we attended a reception that Irene Bueno invited us to which honored Congressman Ruben Hinojosa (TX-15). This event not only was thanking Congressman for serving his community for about 20 years now, but also to his dedication to help low-income first generation students to pursue higher education. It is saddening to know

that a great supporter to programs such as HEP and CAMP will be retiring, although I know he will continue to do great things back in Texas. It was truly an honor to be able to converse with Congressman Hinojosa about the many opportunities CAMP has brought to me, and to thank him for his dedication to support students like myself. It was also amazing to meet many of his colleagues such as Congressman Raul Grijalva (AZ-3), Congressman Henry Cuellar (TX-28), and Congressman Ruben Gallego (AZ-7) and listen to them say how much Congressman Hinojosa has been a great mentor and friend to them.



Wednesday June 22, 2016: On Wednesday morning I woke up super early because I was going to be in The House Democratic Caucus Meeting, I had to be there by 7:30 to help set up. I honestly did not know what to expect at this meeting, all I knew was that many members would be there along with a guest speaker. My first task was to assist any members who needed anything, I enjoyed helping many members and many asked me questions about myself. Then, I was assigned to stand by a door, to make sure no press would enter the room. I didn't think much of it until Congressman Becerra stood by me and Leader Nancy Pelosi (CA-12) walked with the Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton! There I was standing by three influential leaders, the cameras kept on flashing and I could not believe I was there. As if being beside them all was not enough, they all said good morning to me and shook my hand, at that moment I was honestly about to faint (of happiness of course). Later that day, I found out I came out on many news outlets, and the other interns joked that I had become a legendary famous intern. I was also able to meet Maria Elena Salinas a well-known news anchor for the Univision Network, while walking through the House tunnels.



House of Representatives also started today, and it was cool to be able to go down on the house floor while this happened.



Here I am with Congressman Becerra, Leader Pelosi, and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton. (I am in between Secretary Clinton and Leader Pelosi in the pink blouse.)

Thursday June 23, 2016: I was working on one of my assignment early Thursday morning, when I was suddenly told that I'm attending the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO) conference with Congressman Becerra. I agreed and we headed to the conference where I was able to see how the Congressman prepares for speeches and tell him a little more about my internship so far. It was all great until we found out the Supreme Courts split 4-4 vote on United States vs. Texas. I could tell the news affected him and he told me that, "You should never give up, obstacles like this will come, but you must never give up and always fight and advocate for what you believe in." Despite the news we continued our journey to the conference. Once we arrived there were so many people who knew him personally and Congressman Becerra introduced me to so many of them. My favorite was having a formal introduction with Maria Elena Salinas, who I had briefly met on Wednesday. After work, I went to the Supreme Court steps to stand in solidarity with my peers who were affected by the Supreme Courts split vote.



Congressman Joseph Kennedy III (MA-4) and I outside on the Capitol steps.

Friday June 24, 2016: On Friday, I was able to meet Congressman Jim Costa (CA-16), who represents my district. A week ago I decided to go to his office and they invited me to spend my morning in their office and have

lunch with the Congressman and the interns in his office. So Friday I had the opportunity to speak to Congressman Costa about my concerns for our district, it was nice being able to speak with him one-on-one. It was also great to speak to the interns in his office, they asked me so many questions about the district! After programming, we had another silent demonstration in front of the Supreme Court. I knew it was important for us to show our support to everyone who was affected by this decision. We discovered a great wing place called “Wingo’s” the wings there were really good for a decent price. We then went to go see *Finding Dory*, because Aleya really wanted to go see it with all of us. At first I was hesitant on going, but I went anyways, and oh boy, that movie really got me emotional. It was a great movie, and when we got out I could tell we were all touched by it. We all sat in front of the Potomac river and told each other our crazy aspirations in life, and just enjoyed each other’s company.





Saturday June 25, 2016: We went kayaking Saturday in the Potomac River and let me just tell you that it was a challenge for my partner Jasmine and I. We both wanted to lead the way, and soon realized we were not getting anything done beside going around in circles. So, I let Jasmine lead the way and we finally got the hang of it. At that moment I realized that a good leader has to share the floor with others and let them lead as well. Also, do not get inside the water it is extremely dirty, like the water isn't even clear, it's brown. Nonetheless, it was a great time for Jasmine and I to bond. Later on, we went to go get souvenirs for our loved ones at the mall and then headed back home. We had invited some CHCI interns over for dinner so, we made tacos, rice, and horchata.



Sunday June 26, 2016: I woke up super early because we were going to The Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, and we were trying to attend the 7:30 AM mass! We did not make it on time so, we explored and waited for the next mass service. Words could

not explain how gorgeous The Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception is, I just felt very peaceful. After mass we rushed back because we had a Holocaust tour reservation. It was so heartbreaking to see all the injustices that happened to all the innocent victims of the Holocaust. Throughout my time there, I just felt so sad that so many innocent people lost their lives and had to suffer so much just because of they were not part of the Aryan race and had different religious beliefs. We also waited a little over 3 hours for some delicious Pupusas at a local church that was fundraising for a youth group retreat.

