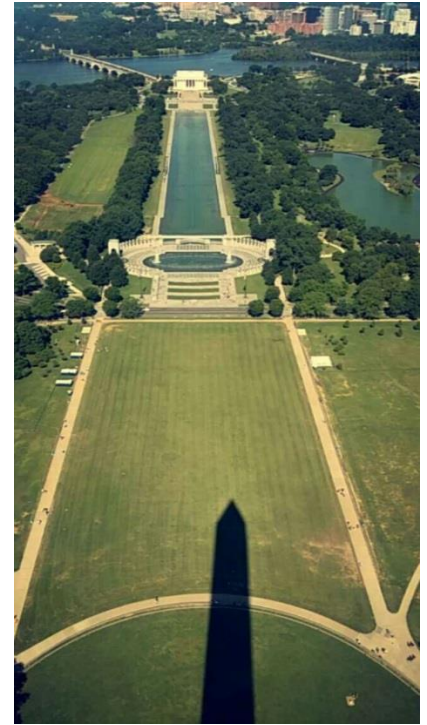


Aleysa Garcia

Week 6

6/27/2016 – 7/3/2016

Time is slipping through my fingers. The days seem to be shorter, and there is still so much to explore, to see. As part of my portfolio, I am in charge of creating a map for teachers who have been honored in the online campaign for #LatinosTeach. I noticed that there are many blank spaces in the Northwestern and Midwestern part of the United States. I want to create a list that can reach these states and nominate amazing Latinx teachers. There are large disparities between the amount of Latinx students and Latinx teachers. We need to elevate their voices and encourage more students of color to become teachers. Therefore, the Initiative and the Hispanic-Serving Institutes along with the Under Secretary are leading a discussion on how institutions can help Latinx teachers. While in the meeting, I had the opportunity to talk to the Under Secretary Ted Mitchell. He is so nice and humble, and I had a great time hearing how HSI's can help teachers, but also how the Department of Education can assist the HIS's.



Later on in the week, we had the pleasure to hear from Senator Heinrich, he comes from an Engineering background. It was refreshing hearing that you do not necessarily have to be in a political or government major; you can still serve as a public official.

We also had the great pleasure to meet with Giev. He is the 2nd VP of United Farmworkers. We had breakfast from Taco District, he told us more information on the United Farmworkers, heard our stories, and told us about a vote that will be happening within the next week. Essentially, almost every worker has the right to everything else and the farm working community seems to be excluded from basic human rights. Therefore, we will be going to the House and visiting our representatives to advocate for our communities and let them know why they should vote no.



This weekend is special because it's the Fourth of July weekend. On Saturday morning, we woke up at 5:30ish in the morning so that we could leave by 6:30 or so.

We wanted to go up the Washington Monument, and we invited Cesar who is a Washington State CAMP alumni. In that moment that I was able to see the whole city, I realized how big DC actually is. We live so close to everything that I often forget that DC goes beyond the National Mall and the Capitol. My favorite part is when you're coming down and on the inside of the monument, there are bricks that are donated by states, and they are truly amazing. I had never noticed that the monument has two different colors. Until that day.... Later, we went to Wicked Waffle, had breakfast and then we went back to GW to change and get ready for a BBQ at Krista's place who is a fellow at the State Department, and is from Idaho. There I met a fellow Oregonian. They are so hard to find in this city! I had a great time meeting other Latinx leaders who work in DC in various positions and in different places in their career.



On Sunday, we went to Lisa's house. We were able to see her daughter's pictures of when she went to South Korea to study abroad. It was interesting seeing the culture, and having her explain dishes or experiences that she had. After, we had a vision board workshop. During this time, we could not talk. We had to think about what we wanted to accomplish, our goals, dreams, aspirations. After looking for many pictures in magazines, I was able to finish my

Vision Board. It was relaxing, but at the same time, it made me realize how difficult it can be to separate what my family, friends, and society thinks I should do versus what I want. Having alone time to think about this, created a more clear vision as to what I want to do for my educational journey. Lisa is incredible, I look up to her and she inspires me to be what I want to be. She is so kind, and helpful.

Tomorrow will be Fourth of July, and I am looking forward to seeing the fireworks at the National Mall, and seeing the parade. I can't wait for what tomorrow's great adventure will be.