

Weekly Journal 6

Tuesday July 28, 2016

At noon, many of the interns within the minority groups attended the Diversity Initiative. Here we spoke with Maria Meier, the Director of the Diversity Initiative from the Office of Senator Reid. Maria leads this initiative to diversify the Hill by recruiting promising candidates of minority background into Hill jobs. During this initiative, we learned of what Maria does, the importance of her work, and how much in common we all had (CHCI, CBC, and the other groups). After she talked to us, we broke into several groups of about 4 or 5 interns. Each group had a staffer, who shared their experience of working on the hill and also how they got to be where they are. Breaking into groups allowed the interns to ask any questions they may have had and also learn some tips and advice from experts as to how to be a better intern. I had Alejandro Renteria, a legislative correspondent for Senator Reid, who spoke to us about his journey and about what he does. I was able to connect with Alejandro due to the Diversity Initiative.

Wednesday July 29, 2016

In the morning, I attended a hearing on an update from the Secretary of Education of proposed regulations to the ESSA. In this hearing were Senator Elizabeth Warren and Senator Christopher Murphy, two of the most well-known politicians. The Secretary of Education, John King, spoke on the updates of his proposed regulations. This hearing got a little heated due to the partisan divide on the issue. It was an honor to be able to watch. Afterwards I typed up a memo about it.

After lunch, Senator Heinrich of New Mexico met with the CHCI interns. He briefly spoke about his journey to the Senate and of what he's learned during the job. He was only able to meet with us for 30 minutes as he is a very busy man.

After meeting Senator Heinrich, the interns in my own office and I were able to meet with Senator Schumer, our boss. It was truly an honor to be able to meet with Senator Schumer and have the opportunity to ask him any questions. Schumer went down the list and asked each person several questions about themselves. After Schumer got to know each of us, we all took a picture with him. In retrospect, it is easy to see why Schumer has never lost an election and why he is so loved by his state; Schumer is very charismatic and very friendly. He is the type of person to light up an entire room with his presence. He is a man others look to for leadership and guidance. Again, I am truly grateful to be interning for him.



Thursday July 30, 2016

On Thursday we had our meeting with the LC's in our office. Here, we were able to meet all of them and ask them whatever questions we had. I enjoy listening to their stories. I learned that there is no one path to getting a job on the hill. Every story was different; and this comforted me to know that anyone of any background can work on the hill. Also, learning about each of the staffers made them more human to me. I felt like a more integral part of the office after they expressed their gratitude to us interns.

Saturday 2, 2016

We woke up early on Saturday to beat the rush to be able to go to the top of the Washington Monument. We waited for about an hour and a half but as expected, the view was well worth the wait. I was able to get some of the best views of D.C.



At around 2, we went to Krista's BBQ party. She invited the CHCI interns so that we can meet colleagues of hers from the State Department. I was able to meet up and connect with a few people.

Sunday July 3, 2016

Lisa invited us to her house for a Vision Board party. Lisa's daughter, Kaitlyn, spoke to us about her study abroad trip in South Korea. After that, we began our vision boards. A vision board is essentially a poster board divided into different sections, each section representing a different aspect of your life. You fill these sections with what you envision for your life; so for example, in the health section you would put pictures of the type of health you wish to have. The purpose of this is to place your goals and dreams onto a board for you to physically see. This would serve as a constant reminder of your goals and would help you keep focus on achieving those goals that you wish for yourself. After this activity, we had a small talk with Lisa. She talked to us about her family, about her work, and about her life in general. It was a pleasant talk with the lovely Mrs. Lisa. She has been one of my favorite people that I have met during my time here in D.C.

Monday July 4, 2016



There is no better place to be for the Fourth of July than in the nation's capital! We began this day by going to the Fourth of July parade. We saw Miss America, a bunch of high school marching bands, and a bunch of floats, including Scooby-Doo! After the parade, we walked over to the Lincoln Memorial where we claimed our spot for the fireworks show. This was around 1:30 in the afternoon. We stretched out some sheets, placed our belongings on the floor, and took shelter from the wind and the rain with our umbrellas. And then we waited. And waited and waited and waited, for seemingly endless hours. The fireworks show did not start until 9:10. But we had to claim our spot, we had to have a good view of the greatest fireworks show in the U.S. There were several moments when we questioned whether it was worth fighting the rain to hold down the spot. I mean, we lived literally a five-minute's walk from the mall. We ate tuna sandwiches. We talked about our internships and about our lives. We learned about each other while we waited for the show to begin. When 9 am finally rolled around, we were excitedly awaiting what was to come. We sat down on our little spot where we

shared so much about ourselves. There were little whispers here and there, as people waited anxiously for the fireworks to begin. And then the first firework shot into the cloudy night. Everyone looked over the reflecting pool and all the talk faded away; it began. It was a series of fireworks shot one after another, creating different patterns and visuals. The audience was captivated as all eyes were on the brilliant lights created by the art show that was before them. I took a moment and looked around. Every person had the same expression. Everyone was in awe of the beautiful display. Everyone seemed to be taken back to their days as five year olds, when the world was brand new. The peoples' faces were as lit up as the night sky was before them. It was a beautiful scene, one that I will not forget for a while. I couldn't help but be happy. At this very moment, I knew I was where I belonged. After enjoying this brief, fleeting moment, I turned my attention back to the fireworks show, where I imagine my face shined as bright as the D.C. sky did on the Fourth of July.



