

Perla – Week #6

On Monday morning I headed for the Department of Education



with an abundance of excitement, the day of the HEP/CAMP conference had finally arrived. I was especially excited for the conference because I was going to see my director, Luz, as well as Dr. Gabriel Gallardo our PI, since I had not seen them in over four weeks. I feel truly blessed to have such great staff at the University of Washington offering their support to us CAMP students. Having the ability to meet other directors was wonderful; it was inspiring to see there are so many others nationwide working towards the success of

migrant students. At the conference I learned that there are many components to



running a successful program as well as learning more about the importance of the HEP program. I was inspired to see that no matter the age of the student, the directors are working towards having their students have an opportunity at receiving a higher education. At the conference, I was able to hear University of Washington CAMP alum present a poem. Ruben's poem titled "Pepito" was captivating and I was excited to finally meet him in person. On Wednesday afternoon I also had the opportunity to attend meetings at the Capitol and talk about the importance of the program at my university. While sitting there I was able to hear other directors and their efforts. I understand that it is very important to have these meetings because it means that we are being seen and heard in Congress. The continuous support of

our congresswomen and men is essential! On Wednesday it was the last day of the



conference and we said our goodbyes to Patrick and Betsy. Thinking back to early June I was beyond nervous for the weeks to come, and for the internship I would be starting in a week. Betsy and Patrick both made me feel welcome in a city where I didn't know anyone else. I am thankful for their efforts in helping us interns learn our way around the district. I am also ever so thankful towards Patrick for proctoring a college exam earlier in June. Having spoken to other interns in the Washington D.C. area, I am beyond grateful towards the HEP/CAMP program for having been generous enough to provide a place for us interns to live while working here, especially because many other internship programs do not provide housing. I am thankful for Betsy as well who printed

beautiful pictures for us interns; I am excited to place them in a scrapbook once I



return home. On Thursday I had the opportunity to attend a hearing at the Capitol, we got a couple of gallery passes from one of the White House Initiative intern's representative office Ruben Hinojosa. Once we arrived at the office, I saw one of my fellow CAMP interns, Miguel, working hard in his office as well as one of the CHCI interns. Once we got the gallery passes we headed over and were able to hear about an environmental issue in California. While I was there I looked over, and saw none other than Anabella! It was neat to see some of my fellow CAMP interns that day! Afterwards we were able to have

some yummy ice cream at the ice cream parlor in Longworth. On Friday after CHCI I



had the opportunity to attend a Nationals Vs. Dodgers game. Since one of the White Houses Initiative intern's aunt's works for the LA Dodgers, we were able to get excellent seats to watch the ball game. Being at the game brought back fun memories of when I was part of a softball team years ago. The game was fun to watch even though there were technical issues with the lights and the game ended early. On Saturday I had the incredible opportunity of going to the White House. What an amazing opportunity it was to be inside the place where our current President Obama works. The paintings inside of the White House were ones I had only seen in history books. The architecture was just beautiful, and it was interesting to see that certain rooms were mainly of one color. I enjoyed looking at the different pieces that had been chosen in each room. Later that

afternoon I also had the opportunity to volunteer at Casa Ruby, which is a safe place for people who identify as LGBT. Our work primarily consisted of going through different clothes and deciding which clothes were in good condition to be stored in the house and given to the residents. We were able to sort through many of the items in the basement, and the place looked much better when we departed. It felt good to have the opportunity to contribute to the community. Overall a wonderful week filled with incredible opportunities and wonderful memories.