



**Perla - Week #7** On Monday I had the opportunity to go bowling at the Truman Bowling Alley inside the Executive Building. Upon arriving to the White House we were lead through different corridors and ultimately to the basement. The Truman Bowling Alley is where the entire White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanics staff gathered. The Bowling Alley consisted of two

lanes, and bright colored seating on the right hand side. There is a picture of Obama that us interns decided to gather around. It was an interesting feeling I experienced when I made the realization that I was bowling at the White House. I surprised myself when I hit a strike the first time I threw the bowling ball. On Wednesday I had a White House tour in the morning with the NVG staff. The tour was wonderful and I was able to learn more neat facts regarding the rooms in the White House.



After the tour we had a meeting with staff, which work closely with Educational Policy in the White House. Us interns were able to share our stories and share our narratives on how being a migrant student has played a role in our experiences. It was neat to know that there are people in the White House, who care about the success of migrant students nationwide. After the meeting we said our goodbyes to Irene Bueno. Irene has been wonderful to us interns and was able to set up a meeting at the White House and a White House tour; she also coordinated our meetings with Arturo Rodriguez, and Giev Kaskooli earlier in the internship. Afterwards, I along with the other CAMP interns was able to go bowling! It was a neat experience and I had fun! After bowling, I had the opportunity to attend the Congressional Scholarship awards dinner. The dinner focused on bringing to light the accomplishments of certain congresswomen and men. My sponsor for the event was Chevron. While at the dinner I learned that

the two sponsors at the table were from the Pacific Northwest. We had the opportunity to talk about the PAC 12 and our respective football teams. On Friday I went to programming and afterwards began to pack my things for my trip to New York. We decided to create a list of places we were to go, as I continued looking up the places I wanted to explore, I became more excited. I was very much looking forward to the adventure to come. This was the first time I had planned an entire trip to such a distant location by myself. Once I finished packing, Irene, who is a CHCI intern, decided that it was a good idea to pack a couple sandwiches for the trip. We decided peanut butter and jam sandwiches were the way to go. At two in the morning we grabbed our bags, called a taxi, and waited in the lobby with another

CHCI intern, Gabby. Once we reached the bus station we waited for the bus, and when it finally arrived it was about 3:30 in the morning. I remember finding my seat



and quickly dozing off as the bus pulled onto the road. When I woke it was 8 am and we were about 20 minutes away from the city. As I looked out the window I could see the city buildings staring back at me. It is difficult to explain how I felt when I saw New York City, my excitement was overwhelming and I was in awe by the tall skyscrapers I had only seen in films. We were dropped off in Chinatown, where Irene, Gabby, and I decided to grab a coffee. On our way towards the Brooklyn Bridge we passed by a street called "Pearl" street. Since my name means Pearl in English I decided to take a picture! Once we arrived, the view from the Brooklyn Bridge was just beautiful. Afterwards we headed for the World Trade Center Memorial. The World Trade Center memorial was massive. Although the place felt calm and serene, one couldn't help but feel sadness with the emptiness that was being portrayed. However, when we went to the Statue of Liberty, we were not able to go up since there was maintenance being done. Afterwards we went to the Empire State Building and then headed towards Times Square. Times Square was much bigger than I expected. We also passed Broadway; I wish I could have seen the Wicked musical. I suppose I will have to save it for next time! We also went into the M & M's candy store. Once inside we saw that there was a wall dedicated to each candy color. Upstairs we had the opportunity to create our own, yet decided to opt out due to the incredibly long line. We also went into several gift shops and purchased souvenirs. Once outside we passed by several characters and decided to take a picture with Mario! After taking our pictures we went to Central Park. Due to an accident that had occurred, we decided to not go too far into the park. However, it was neat to see the park that had been a part of so many movies. For lunch we decided to head to Little Italy. In Little Italy we chose a small restaurant whose pasta was just delicious! The next day I was back in DC and I went with a couple interns to brunch at a local restaurant. After brunch we went to Georgetown University since some interns wanted gear from the school. Once inside I went to the second floor of the bookstore where their school of medicine books and gear were placed. While there I saw a couple of medical students purchasing their books. I am excited for the day when I will be purchasing my medical books, although I don't know how excited I



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will be at the register by the looks of the cost of each book! We also went into the chapel. The chapel was absolutely beautiful and the architecture was just gorgeous! We too took pictures on the steps where past presidents have given speeches in



front of the school of policy. Inside the main administration gothic building, we were able to see several paintings. One of the paintings portrayed past students with very serious facial expressions, and we too decided to take a similar picture. This week was by far one of the most memorable and exciting thus far.