

Monserrath Sanchez

HEP/CAMP Journal

Week 7

Monday July 4, 2016: The Fourth of July, the day we have all been anxiously waiting for! We all packed our lunches and snacks for the day and rushed out towards the National Mall at around noon. We went to the Fourth of July parade where we saw so many cute floats, veterans, Miss America, and high school marching bands. All of the floats were so cool, I really enjoyed watching the parade because it got me super pumped for the fireworks later that evening. We then started to go over to the Lincoln Memorial when it light showers started to kick in. I ran up to go get us a good spot in between the pillars, we then set up our belongings and started our long day of waiting. Occasionally it would begin to pour and get windy so we had to cover ourselves and keep warm but the rain would not stop us from waiting to see the fireworks. We had lunch and were able to meet a family that drove for about 20 hours to spend the Fourth of July in Washington D.C. I enjoyed bonding with my peers and discussing why we were being so crazy and waiting in the rain for the fireworks, but we all agreed it was a once in a lifetime experience. After waiting over 8 hours the fireworks finally began and the foggy sky lit up as well as my face. I couldn't believe it after a long wait, it was all worth it. The firework show was magical and everyone was captivated after each one lit up in the sky. I will always cherish this day.

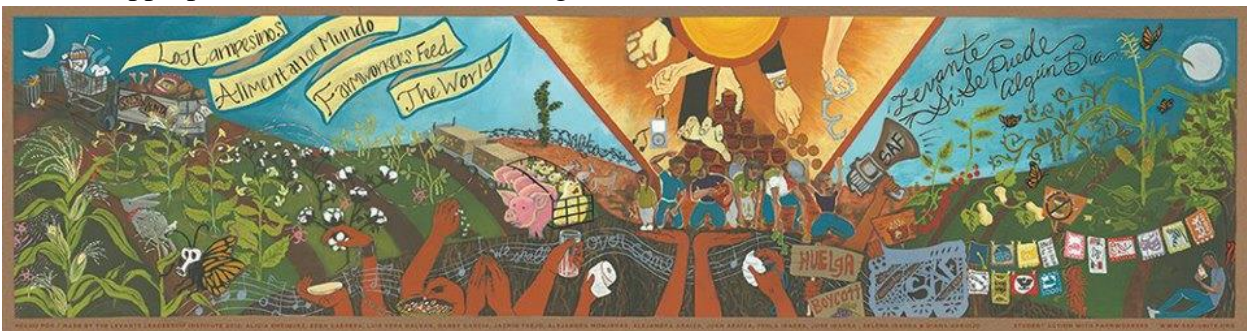


Tuesday July 5, 2016: I once again attended and facilitated the House Democratic Caucus meeting, I woke up early to make sure I was there on time. The special guest at this event was Senator Bernie Sanders. Most of my tasks for this event to make sure only staff entered the room. I was switched to press team duty and I had the amazing opportunity to shake Senator Sanders hand. It was so surreal (I wanted to cry)! I then had the opportunity to listen to him

speak in a press release. I am honestly very thankful that my office allows me to attend and help out during these important meeting because I am able to grow from experiences like these.



Wednesday July 6, 2016: My peers and I had the opportunity to lobby for farm worker rights with the United Farm Workers (UFW). We went to various member's office to advocate for many people who were about to get stripped away from the right to choose a representative look at their medical records. I felt good that I was being the voice for so many farm workers and that even though we didn't know each other, I was supporting them and letting my voice be heard for them. While in some offices you could tell that some of them were truly touched by what we told them as we have also been farm workers and worked in harsh conditions ourselves. I also enjoyed going to the offices because many offices gave you snacks that originated from their district or state. Congressman Jim Costas' office had many products that were made at California State University, Fresno! Later that day I continued to help out in my office with the same Interior Appropriation bill, I was advocating for earlier.



Thursday July 7, 2016: My highlight for Thursday was bumping into Congressman Paul Ryan, Speaker of the House of Representatives. I was doing some errand for my office and had to go to the Capitol and along my way over there I turned the wrong way and ended up in the Speaker of

the House's hallway. I continued walking and I bumped into Speaker Paul Ryan, I was so scared, I didn't even know what to say. All I remember is that I was my face turned red and I was super embarrassed, Speaker Ryan kindly said "Hello" and continued walking. I on the other hand was nervous and asked for directions, turns out I was going the correct way, I turned in the documents and headed back to my office to finish my other duties.

Friday July 8, 2016: Friday programming was very fun today we meet with some amazing interns from AJC, Global Jewish Advocacy group. It was interesting to discover so many similarities between us. I never really thought the Latino community would have any similarity with the Jewish community. We spent our entire day at Lincoln's Cottage learning about President Lincoln and how our communities could work together. I really enjoyed being in Lincoln's Cottage, it was just extremely hot and there were about 50 people in a medium sized room with no air conditioning. Despite the weather, I enjoyed learning from the Jewish community and learning about what President Lincoln did while he spent his time in the cottage. We also had Shabbat dinner with them where we were able to bond a lot more with the AJC interns. During our Shabbat dinner we both shared our traditions with each other and were able to learn a little bit more. After a fun dinner we headed back home to finish packing for our trip to New York.



Saturday July 9, 2016: We choose the 2:00 AM bus so we basically didn't sleep much because we needed to be at the station at around 1:30 AM. Although, none of us seemed tired because we were anxious to arrive and explore New York. We arrived at around 7:00 AM and headed out to

get some coffee! We started our morning off by visiting the 9/11 memorial, it was so peaceful and quiet. We then went off to go see the Statue of Liberty and soon realized that we got on the wrong ferry. We didn't give up and put it on our list for the next morning. We walked around Little Italy which is so adorable! I was able to speak to some local shop owners in Italian and it was simply such a great experience. We also went on the Brooklyn Bridge and had a nice view of the city. We had dinner at a very upbeat restaurant called Cafeteria. We also went to Central Park, Newark, Jersey City, and Wall Street that day.

Sunday July 10, 2016: We got ready and started our journey towards The Statue of Liberty. We got tickets to have a boat tour that would get us really close to The Statue of Liberty. The tour was amazing, I enjoyed looking around, but what I enjoyed the most was the beautiful company. Being surrounded by my peers made this trip to New York so fun and was honestly so much better than my first time there. As we got closer to The Statue of Liberty, I turned around and saw everyone's eyes sparkle; I could see so much faith and hope in their eyes that it made me smile with joy! Later on we went to Time Square, I absolutely loved it, it felt like a party that never ends! Side Note: During our trip to New York, I proudly lead everyone to where we needed to go. I did not get us lost or stranded anywhere. I felt really proud that I finally was able to lead us all somewhere without getting lost. 😊