

Aleysa Garcia

Week 7

7/4/2016 – 7/10/2016



The moment we all have been waiting for! July 4th has finally arrived!!! We started the day by waking up early and getting all of the food ready for the day. They told us that they do not sell food in the mall, so we made sandwiches, guacamole, tuna salad, chips, mango, watermelon, and water. We left for the parade but only got to see the portion of it because we wanted to save our seats in the mall for the firework show. The day was a little rainy, but nothing too bad. As we settled in the Lincoln Memorial, it started to pour! We got so wet. It was bad, but we got good seats! We sat and waited for about 8 hours or so for the show.

Also, the CHCI interns joined us, and we all watched the fireworks together. It was an amazing experience! Spending time with my cohort and sharing those precious moments. I am happy to be able to share these experiences with them and able to find another family away from home.

The workweek was exciting for me. Next week, Michelle and Alejandra will be traveling to Oregon for the Migrant Series events. I am helping them get prepared with the invitation, agenda, and anything else that they need me to do. I am extremely excited to be able to participate and bring a voice to my community. I am hopeful that the event will have a great turnout. The WHIEEH staff have put a lot of thought and effort to have a successful event.



It also gives me great satisfaction that they get to see Oregon's beauty. It is incredible to think that most of the work has been developed by me. In the future, I want to be able to do similar work and to positively affect the migrant community. Through my experience with the WHIEEH, I have learned to advocate for myself, to bring my voice to the table and consequently, I want to work with organizations or businesses to open a clinic that would serve farmworkers who are in high need of healthcare services.

During CHCI programming, we were able to go to Lincoln's cottage. Let me tell you that it must have been hard to live in an era where there was no AC. It was a sticky day! However, we had the chance to form a coalition with the Jewish community. The two groups united all day to talk about community coalition. I never thought that the Jewish community had similarities with the Latinx community. Because of their openness to talk about their culture and community, I was able to learn a lot from them and their culture. They also made dinner for us and we all enjoyed an original Shabbat dinner.



During the weekend, because of Thomas Franco, I was able to visit the White House. On Saturday morning, we were able to go and have a tour! It was amazing!!! After taking a large amount of pictures, I left to New York to meet with the rest of the crew.

When I was arriving to New York, I could not help but to think how my father would be proud of me. I do not think my parents ever imagined that I would be in DC or New York. I always tell others that their town is so small and it's not even on a map. However, it is amazing to see their sacrifices, leaving behind everything that they knew and getting used to a new environment in the U.S. So, I have the responsibility of being the one who challenges, advocates, and changes the view of Latin Americans. One day, I will be able to take my mom places that she has only seen in TV. I want her to experience what I have had the privilege to do. I want to show her my favorite restaurants, the monuments and the craziness of New York.

Being in New York, I felt like a little kid in a candy store. Everything was cool and amazing. While in NY, we took a ferry tour, which took us around the Brooklyn Bridge, World Trade Center, and the Lady Liberty. The Lady Liberty was my favorite, but I did expect the statue to be bigger, but it didn't appear to be that tall. She's still very green, and quite remarkable. Then, we went around Chinatown, which I thought was full of life. There are so many people. One day I want to visit my college roommate in China and experience her culture as a whole.



We walked in Central Park and saw some wonderful dances. A part of the park had their own group of dancers with different genres. The two that we saw was Tango, and pop music. Another landmark in NY is the Times Square. There is so much happening at the same time. It can be overwhelming because there is so much to see.

The time flew in the blink of an eye and it was time to go back to DC. I don't think I would ever move to NY, maybe for an internship, but nothing-long term. Then again, life can surprises us in many ways.

