

The last week of my internship was fabulous and went very well. I went to some very fun and entertaining events but these events were also very important where highly important people attended.

On Wednesday, Lisa invited me to attend the LULAC College Symposium. The purpose of this was so that college students would be exposed to their options for careers in the different federal agencies. I was very surprised to hear from the CIA. Two women presented on their careers in the CIA and explained how not everyone in the CIA was a Spy! During the LULAC College Symposium, they also taught us how to write a federal resume, as they are very different for regular resumes.

Thursday was full of even more exciting things. Irene Bueno had tickets for the different events throughout the week that LULAC planned. I had the wonderful opportunity to attend Thursday's Unity Luncheon where Secretary Clinton was speaking. It was truly an amazing experience to see the presumptive candidate for the Democratic Party. It was also an event that made me think very much. As Clinton was speaking, I realized all of the promises she was making to the Latino community and students. All of the things she was saying seemed great, but hopefully she follows through if she becomes president. A very important corporate leader that works for AT&T was also there and he spoke about his experiences in college and the importance of Latinos going into STEM fields, as he was an engineering student himself. Julian Castro, the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, was also part of the program. During his speech he said something important that stuck out to me, "never has the destiny of this nation been so intertwined with the destiny of Latinos." This quote by him is very significant when considering the 2016 elections.

Thursday was also the CHCI graduation. It is so crazy that all of these people that I built some great relationships with will be leaving soon. We will all go back to school or work and continue our lives but that does not mean that we will forget about each other. There are a few people in the group that I know I will be keeping in touch with, and not to mention my CAMP cohort. We will definitely stay in touch with each other!

Friday was the very last programming event for CHCI. It was again, a very inspiring day. We heard from Rey Decerega, who is the Senior Director for Leadership Programs at CHCI. He shared a news article then discussed what he felt the American Dream really is. We then had the opportunity to discuss within ourselves what it meant to us. This conversation made me feel empowered in the way that I left feeling that I could define the American Dream in whatever way that I wanted as it pertains to me.

On Saturday night, the CAMP interns and I volunteered at the closing event for the LULAC convention. Gilberto Santa Rosa, the legendary Salsa artist preformed first. I am not much of a salsa dancer but I must admit that I had a lot of fun! After him, A.B. Quintanilla preformed with the Kumbia Kings. This was so fun for me because it brought me some great memories from my childhood!

Sunday, Dr. Lisa Ramirez hosted a barbeque/talent show for us at her house. All of the interns and I are very grateful for Lisa doing this for us and her opening her home to us. When getting ready for this talent show, we all thought long and hard about what our talents would be. Seeing that none of us had an obvious and apparent talent, we decided to plan a skit together. Our skit consisted of us pretending to be congressmen and women voting on a bill that would eliminate funds for the HEP/CAMP Internship. We put into practice everything that we learned while in our office but we also incorporated our stories. This was also fun because it made it easier for me to envision one day being in a position of power like that.

Later on that evening we had a very meaningful and important conversation with Lisa and Evelyn, one of Lisa's very close friends and a CHCI staff member. Together they shared with us important things stories and experiences. This meant a lot to me that they did this because it shows how much they both care about us and are willing to help us. Lisa also gave all of us a signed copy of her book and that meant so much to me.

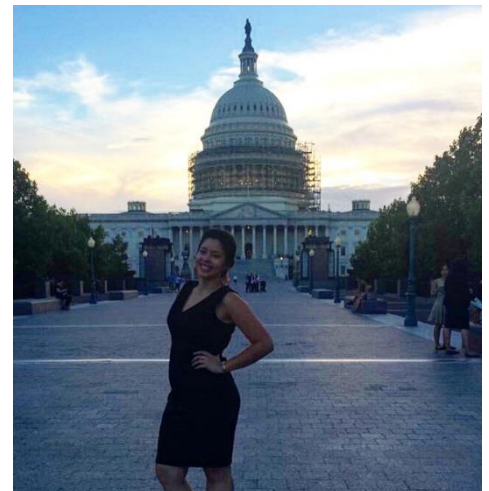
This experience in the internship at the Office of Migrant Education and with the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute is one that I will treasure forever. I did not imagine me changing and growing so much as an aspiring professional and as a leader. I feel blessed to have had this opportunity. I am very thankful to the National HEP/CAMP Association for this and I would also like to thank all of the people who work for HEP and CAMP to help my peers and me.



Secretary Clinton Speaking at the LULAC Unity Luncheon



Picture of interns with Lisa and Evelyn after the barbeque



Posing for one last picture in front of the US Capitol Building