

Gustavo Flores
Week 8

All my life I have been surrounded by the same people, culture, and community. Before attending Sacramento State, I had never spent time away from home for more than a week. I always had the mindset that someday I would travel away from home and explore new cultures and new places; however, I never expected to undergo such a life changing experience so early on in my life. In just one year, so many doors have opened to me. All the time and resources that I have invested in my education and my perseverance to break away from the norm are paying off little by little in a big way. It is the aforementioned reasons and the many mentors that have helped me along the way that made this internship a reality.

It is a bittersweet feeling knowing that this is my last week in Washington DC. Every time I walk through the hallways of the office, I reminisce about previous summers and the long days I spent working under the sun doing backbreaking labor in the fields. Now, I can proudly say that this summer has been the complete opposite of what I am used to. I have visited places and met people so uncommon to most. Very few people can say they have visited the White House and gone bowling at the Truman Bowling Alley, both in the same day; even fewer people can say they have walked through the tunnels of the Capitol Building as an intern. I truly enjoyed these eight weeks that have gone by so fast. I will miss the fast paced lifestyle of working at the office, having political discussions, visiting the museums, going for jogs around the various monuments; however, most of all, I will miss the my fellow interns and all of those who made this summer such a memorable experience.

Being entrusted to be one of the five HEP/CAMP interns this year is one of my greatest accomplishments thus far, and it is something I do not take for granted. I understand the importance of empowering our communities and the necessity to get more Latinos in leadership positions in order to better serve and represent all minorities. I feel more determined than ever to continue my path as a public servant. I also feel very motivated and optimistic about the future of this country because I have met so many ambitious Latinos along the way who are working to make a change on many social and political issues that need to be addressed.

My eight-week journey in DC will soon come to an end; however, this is only the beginning of a life-long learning experience. I have learned so much about myself and the potential that I have to be an agent of change. I have also learned never to limit myself, regardless of the circumstances, and that any dream can become a reality as long as one is willing to stay committed by working hard and never giving up. Until next time...











