

Jose Flores

Weekly Journal 9

The HEP/CAMP interns volunteered during the Annual Director's Meeting (ADM), where directors of HEP and CAMP hold a 3-day conference to discuss the programs they run. The meeting is hosted by the Office of Migrant Education (OME) in the Department of Education. There, we were to assist OME in hosting the directors, so we performed a number of different tasks, from passing out papers to helping out in the different workshops. We were also there to meet all the directors of the different programs, since the five of us are products of the program. We serve as a reminder as to why the directors do what they do, and it is to help migrant students succeed despite difficult circumstances. We talked about our experiences in D.C. and about how much we have developed from our time being there.



On Monday, after the first day of the ADM, we had dinner with our directors at this Dominican restaurant called Los Hermanos. After dinner, a couple directors joined us for some ice cream. Overall, it was great to be able to see our directors from back home and tell them all about our experience in D.C.



On Wednesday, we were lucky enough to be able to go on a tour in the White House! Irene Bueno from NVG set it up for us. The five of us walked through the White House's many rooms. They were all beautifully decorated. Each room had a different theme and served its own purpose. Each artifact in these rooms have a historical significance, so not only was the White House visually remarkable, but it served as a museum for American History. I could not believe

that just a year ago I was working in the fields of North Carolina. I would have never thought that I would be walking through the White House a year later.



Thursday was basically our last day with Crystal as she had to leave around 4 am to the airport the next day. At around 2:30, we were scheduled to have a meeting with Julie and Roberto Rodriguez. Julie is the Deputy Director for Public Engagement and Roberto is Deputy Assistant to the President for Education Policy. They told us about their work in the White House. After the meeting with them, we had a small tour of the Dwight D. Eisenhower building.

On Friday morning, there were only four of us left as Crystal had left us. The four of us went on a bike ride through the National Mall to visit it for the last time before everyone went back

home. I believe a bike ride through the mall is a must, as you get to visit all the monuments relatively quickly and the mall is really a beautiful place to walk around in.

On Saturday morning, I was the only one left. The rest were on their way home. I stayed behind because I got a great opportunity, the chance to go to the DNC in Philly! Giev from UFW said he could get me in the DNC with his credentials, and so I took the offer. I switched my flight date at no extra cost and we found free housing due to a connection we have. I spent the weekend packing my things to get ready for the upcoming week. While this week was my last week with this internship, I will have one more journal for the following week detailing my DNC experience in Philly!