

## Weekly Journal 5

**Jose Flores**

**Monday June 20, 2016**

After work, the CAMP interns and I met up with Lisa Ramirez, the Director of Migrant Education in the Office of Elementary and Secondary Education at the U.S. Department of Education. She invited us to a show held by the 2016 Presidential Scholars at the Kennedy Center; which was just incredibly done by very talented, aspiring artists. The show was more than just a demonstration of these young artists' talents; the show told the stories of these young artists, a story of hope for change and for peace. After this beautiful event, Lisa invited us to a Vision Board party at her house so we will be doing that July 3<sup>rd</sup>. Lisa is a very sweet woman who genuinely cares about our stories. Although we briefly spoke, I know that she is excited to be able to meet us; I can tell that she is passionate about working with migrant students.



**Tuesday June 21, 2016**

On Tuesday, I and about ten other interns had public speaking training at the Vanguard. There, we told a small story of our lives in three minutes. The point of this training was to help us tell a detailed and powerful story that both gives someone a small snippet of our lives, while also allowing listeners to paint a grander picture of our lives and the type of person we are. This training aimed to make us more passionate and confident speakers, and it did it in the most simplest, basic and natural way. The “secret” was to begin talking about things we already know;





### **Saturday June 25, 2016**

I was able to volunteer with CARECEN on Saturday. There, I pretended to be an immigration officer administering a test for a hopeful future permanent resident of the U.S. It was fun pretending to be an immigration officer, but it was more than just fun, it was a privilege to be able to work with these people. You can tell that they studied hard to learn the material to be able to pass the test. Their seriousness and focus was inspiring and made me realize how lucky I am to be a U.S. citizen. I tried my best to give them feedback to help them be better prepared for the tests. It was a very unique and special experience.

### **Sunday June 26, 2016**

On Sunday I volunteered with Bread for the City. There we placed different varieties of vegetables into bags and then placed them into bins. It was only an hour and a half of work, since there was about 20 volunteers. Afterwards we were able to tour the facility. The organization was more professional than I expected it to be. Bread for the City did not just hand out food like other service centers; here, they tried to help D.C. residents of low-income with any and every issue they may have. There are legal aides, nurses, accountants, and other professionals to help them with virtually any problem they may come across. It is truly amazing to learn about what Bread for the City does for the people in D.C.

The weeks are starting to fly by and I am losing track of what I do each day. All I know is that I am thoroughly enjoying my time here in D.C. I am now at the halfway point of my internship. I am sad that I am already halfway through my time here in this beautiful city; however, I still have another half to go through and I will make the most of it. I will go to every briefing, hearing, reception, and event that I hear of. I will pick up more projects, meet more people, and discover more opportunities for myself. I will try to enjoy the remaining time I have with my amazing cohort of CAMP interns. They are some of the most amazing, hard-working people I have ever met in my life. Their extraordinary stories inspire me to try to achieve the most I can. Although I sometimes doubt my own abilities and I doubt the future of our country, I am reassured and comforted by these grand individuals; I understand that though the world may not be as I wish it would be, there are good people like them out there trying to make a positive difference. That thought gives me hope as I move forward in my life.



