

Week two in Capitol Hill has been full of surprises. My biggest concern was on Monday because I didn't know what to expect during my first day at the office. I have never worked in an office setting before; it was all new to me. To my surprise, the staff at the office were all really nice and comprehensive. They understood that it was my first day as an intern and instead of assigning me to answer phone calls or deal with paperwork, they handed me a binder full of information that described all my duties at the office. My second day was quite memorable because the other interns and I had the opportunity to sit down and converse with Congressman Becerra himself.

Later on in the week, many interesting events occurred that I was fortunate enough to be a part of. Events such as: various networking receptions, attending briefings, taking tours at the Capitol Building, and an exclusive meeting for the CHCI interns with Senator Tim Kaine. We were even featured in an interview with Univision after the meeting. Never in my wildest dreams would I have pictured myself in this position. Where I come from, people rarely get to enjoy the college experience. I owe so much credit to migrant programs such as CAMP who have helped me get to this point in life. Since I was in elementary school, migrant programs have assisted me and it is thanks to their help that I am making my dreams a reality.

I would also like to acknowledge the other CAMP and CHCI interns that are interning in Capitol Hill this year. They are all young, motivated Latino leaders with bright futures ahead of them and it has been a pleasure interacting with them. It feels good to know that people you can relate to are taking initiative and standing up for our communities, especially in DC which is not very diverse. These individuals make me feel at home and not like a stranger; we constantly hang out and have been exploring the beautiful city of Washington DC together.

DC is very unique in many ways; however, the one thing that surprises me most is the weather! It is like nothing I have dealt with before in California. There are times throughout the day when the weather feels so hot and humid, then when you least expect it, rain starts pouring. The weather is never consistent here. Another unique aspect of the city is the museums and monuments located around the city. I enjoy taking jogs during the evening to get out of the room and to explore the different sites that DC has to offer. I've captured many interesting photographs during these adventures. One of the most interesting things I have done this week is visit the Smithsonian National Zoological Park. It had been many years since I last visited a zoo, and it was nothing compared to the Smithsonian National Zoological Park. The best part of the trip was getting to see a Panda bear up close. It was great learning about the different species of animals that the zoo has.

Overall, I am beyond pleased with all that I have experienced in these first two weeks. I am confident that things will only get better as the internship program progresses.



