



## ***Intern Introductions***

***Summer 2013 HEP CAMP Association***

# ***HEP CAMP Association Interns***

## **2013 Summer HEP CAMP Association**



Name: Michael Suarez  
Hometown: *Mission, Texas*  
University: *Michigan State Unviersity*  
Major: *Communications*  
Sponsor: *HEP CAMP Association*  
Placement: *Office of Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand (NY)*

# Michael A. Suarez

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## Education

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- Michigan State University (Freshmen) 2012-16
- Communications

## Profile

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- Fluent in Spanish and English.
- Believe in motivation for individuals in a team.
- Acquire great communication skills.
- Determination to get tasks done on time and at the best quality.
- Open-minded with different perspectives and comprise great leadership skills.

## Leadership Skills

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- *Class President 3 consecutive years*, Fundraised \$8,000 for PROM in a low- income school in a matter of 4 months
- Raised Awareness Against Drinking and Driving! & Soccer Game for student who was hit by a drunk driver, "*In loving memory of Luis Hernandez*" proceeds went to funeral and scholarships. \$6,000
- "*You Are Not ALONE*" campaign raised awareness for student from my high school who committed suicide for being undocumented, created a walk and a closure ceremony for students.
- Host for "*Brown Pride*" event at Michigan State

## Work Experience

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- *Michigan State University College of Communication Arts and Science Current*
  - Assistant for Advertising Manager @ KWAR TV and Radio Station
  - Data entry
  - Customer service
- *The Law Office of Rene A. Flores Criminal Defense Attorney in Mission, Texas. Summer 2012*
  - Assistant paralegal.
  - Acquiring customer service skills
  - Ability to do independent research through the city hall software
  - Organizational records skills for the law firm.
- *Whataburger Fast Food Restaurant 2011-12*
  - Learned Team Work
  - Working at a fast pace, but at a professional manner
  - Time Management
  - Customer Service

## Community Service

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- Habitat for Humanity 2011-12
- Families Helping Families 2010-11

**Michael Suarez**  
***HEP CAMP Association Intern***  
Mission, Texas  
Communications, Michigan State University  
*Placement: Office of Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand (NY)*

**HEP CAMP Association Intern Biography**

Michael A. Suarez is a rising sophomore at Michigan State University through the College Assistance Migrant Program. He is pursuing a bachelor's degree in Communications with an emphasis in Latino studies.

He is from Mission, Texas where they have one mission: *be successful*. He hopes to reach his own personal goals. Michael's long term goal is to have his own talk show to raise awareness for society about issues affecting the Latino community.

Michael is thankful for the opportunity to be in Washington, D.C. He looks forward to developing as a leader, networking with fellow Latinos and returning to Mission, Texas with new skills to accomplish his mission.

Michael Suarez Weekly Journals.

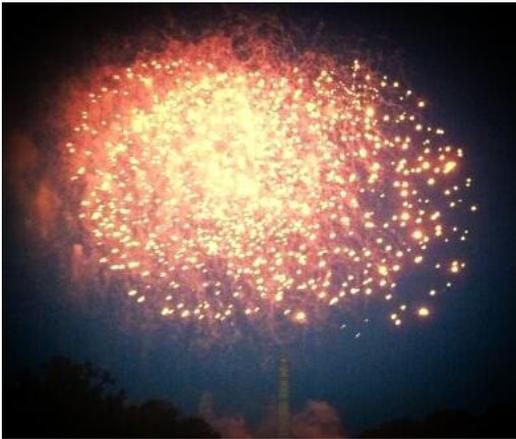
First week in Washington D.C as an Intern on behalf of the HEP/CAMP Association has had to be one of greatest opportunities in my life.

I am so grateful for the opportunity from individuals that believe in me, and I promised myself that I would use this opportunity to make this a positive work experience and use this opportunity to enhance the quality of my personal growth. During my first week we were guided by an amazing caring individual that goes by the name of Patrick Doone Aka Jay Walker (insider), this man treats us like his own kids. We quickly learned the ropes of riding the Metro in order to get around the city. He worked very hard to ensure we were able to schedule meetings with important Latino and Migrant leaders in D.C. I met with Irene Bueno the person who has supported this program in D.C. I also met Arturo the President of the UFW association he worked alongside Cesar Chavez during his heroic activism. We also worked with the CHCI program in D.C and met other individual that shared common goals. Day by day my relationship with the six other female interns (yes I am the only male) has grown stronger and I was able to distinguish why they were also chosen to be a part of the this wonderful internship. We all had passion for making this world a better place for everyone, but mostly for people who have lived and have experienced the Migrant field worker lifestyle. They also were the voice of those people who did not have the courage or confidence to speak up. I know for a fact that they have and will do a great representation for their communities. Being in D.C has helped me become more confident in my abilities as a college student and having a background of agriculture fieldwork. This District has provided me with the privilege of exercising my rights and has pushed me to speak up in regards to my experience as a

migrant field worker. I hope to continue to make a positive difference within my time here.

Week 2 in Washington D.C as an intern for Senator Kirsten Gillibrand of New York. As a Communication major I had no idea what to expect from this internship, not knowing much about the political system was a bit overwhelming, but realizing how great the other interns are has taught me the basic knowledge. As of now I am surviving on Capitol Hill. This was my first week working in the office and I will be honest, it was very fast paced and I had to stay on my toes. Although it has been quite a challenge I am not going to give up, I am going to grasp as much information as I can and make the best of my internship. I have done a front office phone shift, and a couple of mock Capitol Tours. I have had the privilege to tour the Capitol of the United States and view the outside of the White House. I've been to the Holocaust Museum and World War II Monument. We also had a meeting with a member of congress to discuss amendments to a bill that would affect farm workers. I have also built really good relationships and a strong network with people that I will be able to count on in my future. We have also made really good friends in the dorm we are staying. We also made it a routine that we will be getting together every Saturday to cook a traditional meal. My second week here in D.C has been better than my last and I believe they will only keep getting better.

My fourth week here in D.C. was probably the week that has brought most joy and happiness to me. I was privileged enough to attend the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Firework show in front of the Abraham Lincoln Memorial, along with hundreds of D.C. residents. This was the first ever 4<sup>th</sup> of July I did not spend with my family, but I am glad I was surrounded by very good friends that I will forever hold close to my heart. During the firework show, I felt paralyzed in the most peaceful manner.



I felt the need to reflect what I had been through in these last couple of weeks. I also took the time to thank God for blessing me with the opportunity. It also made me think of all the people that were so proud of me, and those who helped frame me into the young man that I had become. As soon as I came back to acknowledge the beautiful showcase of fireworks, it hit me and only hoped that one day I could bring my mother and younger sister to



experience this with me. This moment only

motivated me more to pursue my dreams in helping others and becoming successful.

### 5<sup>th</sup> Week Journal

My fifth week in D.C was a very important and special week, because I began to question why I needed to be doing the things I was assigned to do in my internship. I felt that I could be doing more important tasks. What I soon came to realize was that you have to start somewhere, and it's not always going to be where you would like. I learned that everything you do has a reason for it. Sometimes you need to start at the bottom to understand how the top works. While I was out doing tasks I came across a very inspirational woman. She was on a wheelchair and had two prosthetic legs. Which really surprised me, because I had never seen someone with this type of disability. As I overheard her finishing up a conversation with a gentleman at the end of the hall. I summoned up all my courage and went over to talk to her, relying only on my instincts I asked her "Excuse me did you ever give a speech on behalf of President Obama"? She responded "Yes I have, at the Democratic Convention in 2012" I was in shock that almost a year ago I was sitting on my couch listening to this very woman give an inspirational speech that blew my mind and motivated me to strive in every which way to be successful.



The amazing woman that I am referring to is a

congresswoman Tammy Duckworth for the State of Illinois representing the 8<sup>th</sup> districted. Experiences like this is what reminds me of why I am here. I know now that every task counts for something very important it does not matter if it a small or big each task has its own significances.

### 6<sup>th</sup> Week Journal

My Sixth week here in Washington D.C has been breathtaking. This week was the National HEP/CAMP Association Conference. All the directors across the country came together to acknowledge the success and accomplishments for the year. It's



been a great experience to actually be present within the different workshops and get a good grasp of all the work that it takes to have a successful CAMP program. I also had the privilege to share my profile and experience here in Washington D.C. I really enjoyed addressing the directors and having the chance to thank them for all their hard work on behalf of the camp



students. Thankfully being apart of the conference has really helped me realize that I am representing this huge organization that consist of amazing invested leaders, and I do not want to let down the organization due to my representation. This was a very important week for the interns and I because this week was the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute (CHCI) graduation. So we all became CHCI Alumni's due to our participation in Friday programing. It was a wonderful experience to be apart of another great Hispanic organization here D.C. With that being said there will be many responsibilities as you become more active within your internship in D.C and it will really help you grow as a professional.

My 7<sup>th</sup> week in D.C. has been a guilt week. I recently had the opportunity to go to



New York City, it was amazing, but what was even more amazing was the fact that I got to see and do something that had always been a dream of mine. I am blessed and so thankful for my persistence and all the people that have supported me through life, because of them this dream was able to come true. I never imagined that I could take night jogs over to the Abraham Lincoln Memorial as I pleased. As I lay on the steps of the memorial, I began to realize how truly blessed I was by god to be given this opportunity. I felt so great and privileged to be on the steps of Abraham Lincoln, a president through history who was a great leader to this nation. It was very emotional for me, I asked myself “God why me”? I talked to a complete stranger and told her my story, she told me that I was blessed and to imagine myself stranded in an island with my family and a boat that would fit one person. I am the one my family chose to leave on the boat because they know I am the one that will come back with more boats for them. So I am grateful that I feel guilt, it reminds me how much love I have for my family, and helps me realize what I need to do to be successful and provide for my family in the future.