

Week Two

Monday was my first day interning with the White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanics. The atmosphere is very pleasant and full of outgoing people. This past week my fellow interns and I have worked on projects that influence on the Hispanic/Latinx community. It fascinates me to be able to work on a task that is essential in developing resources that are available to the community.

On Tuesday we were informed that we will be able to visit the white house next month. We will also have an opportunity to visit the Supreme Court and hopefully witness a a decision. Thinking back to all of the things I have done in my life, I felt Speechless when I heard this news. Prior to this experience, I would have never believed that I could have such experiences like I have in my life now. It is still a bit surreal to have traveled to Washington DC to work at the Department of Education and a few months ago, all of this would seem so out of reach.

This week, we were introduced to a new member of the internship team. The team of interns now consists of 4 interns who are all from different Hispanic backgrounds. We went out to dinner that day at the famous Ben's Chili Bowl. Although we stay fairly neutral when discussing politics in the workplace, it is a completely not the case when we are outside of the work place. The conversations we were having went back and forth for a while with each person sharing their political views. After discussing immigration issues, diversity issues, and our different perspectives on the presidential administration, we finally resumed to talked about more casual things. For example, the places we like to eat when home, what we would like to pursue in life, and what we hope to gain from this internship. Although our political views may not align, it feels great to know that we respect each other as intern co-workers.

What I realized during my second week in Washington D.C., was the large amount of media that feeds on the city's daily life which to me is impressive. I talk to the Congressional Hispanics Caucus Institute Interns once in a while and I see their congressmen and senators supporting for policies that are broadcasted on national news. In D.C. it is true when people say that local news is national news. The legislation, executive orders, and supreme court decisions all happen right next door to where I work. Yet, I still have not completely synced into the Washingtonian day to day routine.

An issue that has received plenty of attention during the last few weeks is the issue of separation of immigrant children from their families. If I were home, this would be an issue that I am unsure that I would really understand what is being done to prevent this from happening. The fact of the matter is, that there are many representatives from many districts that are advocating for the elimination of this practice. To be able to see this firsthand is what gives me the confidence that the Latinx representation and advocates in government are doing their job.

As I traveled back to my residence at the end of the week, I thought about my accomplishments this week and how things have aligned themselves perfectly at times. My family, friends, mentors and everyone that has supported me and who paved a smooth path to where I am today.

