

HEP/CAMP National Internship Program Week 1
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While applying to this internship program, I was very nervous about living across the country for an entire summer. My family and friends are all supportive and proud that I am interning with the United Farmworkers of America (UFW) at Washington D.C. When I was leaving to Washington D.C. I was scared because I was not sure if this internship was the right fit for me. When I landed at Washington D.C I was excited to see the other interns and I couldn't wait to start this new journey until I received a message from Patrick, the internship coordinator.

Hi Noel,

You are landing at the wrong airport. Call me when you land and we will work out how to get you to Reagan national airport.

I wasn't sure what to do since I was stranded in Arlington, Virginia. I was stressing out because I did not know how to get there and an Uber would have cost \$40. I calmed down a bit and noticed that I could take a bus and it would only be \$7.50.

When I met the other interns, we all connected as if we had been friends for a long time. I enjoyed meeting Kellie, Karla, Karla, and Leo and on the first night I noticed why they were selected for this amazing opportunity. The next day we went out shopping and Patrick showed us how to use the Metro system. I got the hang of it very easily, so I knew I was going to fit in D.C. very well.

On Monday, we went to the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute Headquarters and were ready to begin our internship orientation. We met 25 other interns and I was glad they were all friendly. Walking home from our first day of orientation, we passed by the White House. I teared up looking at it for the first time because I did not think I would ever see it in person. It is a beautiful place to see and I am glad I saw it.

On Tuesday, we all went to our placement offices to meet our intern supervisors. We first walked to Capitol Hill to meet the Chief Executive of Representative Roybal-Allard's office and Raul Grijalva's office. After, we went to the Department of Education to meet with the Office of Migrant Education and the White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanics.

The last office we went to was my office, the United Farmworkers of America which is located in the Human Rights Campaign building. We were able to have lunch with Irene Bueno, co-founder of NVG, LLC. Unfortunately, I was unable to meet Giev Kashkooli, the Political director of the UFW. However, he has already given me some assignments to work on while he is gone.

Coming from a farmworking background, I plan to motivate myself in the work by remembering of Orange Cove, a small city where families' main income is field work. Many of them work in difficult environments and work long hours with little pay. One of my current assignments is to

lobby for the AB 1066, the overtime bill for farmworkers. On June 12th, 2016, CA Governor Jerry Brown passed the Overtime bill for farmworkers. Now I plan to help out the UFW and make sure Congress will pass AB 1066 nationwide. Lobbying is something I am unfamiliar with but I am sure with Irene's assistance I will do great.

The rest of the week was filled with CHCI sessions on how to network and how to be a strong leader. On Wednesday, we had a CHCI networking event with past CHCI alumni and I enjoyed meeting them and hearing about their stories. We were given resume tips and were given advice on how to get a job on Capitol Hill in the future.

Friday night was our last dinner with Patrick. We went to an Italian restaurant, the same one we went to the day we first arrived. I really enjoyed all the conversations we had with Patrick. He is a wise man and I am glad to have met him. He has helped me notice the little things in my life and I am very appreciative of that.

Saturday night was a night where we had a night to relax and let out all our stress and get ready for our first week of the internship. We went to a dance club and had a blast. When we were leaving we all knew we had made new friendships that have grown stronger because of the dance moves that were made on the dance floor. We all expressed ourselves and I am glad to have made so many new friends.

As I finish this journal and get ready for my first day at the UFW, I am glad of the achievements I made to get here and I am thankful for everyone who helped me get to where I am.

Sincerely,

Noel Lopez-Gomez

UFW Intern

