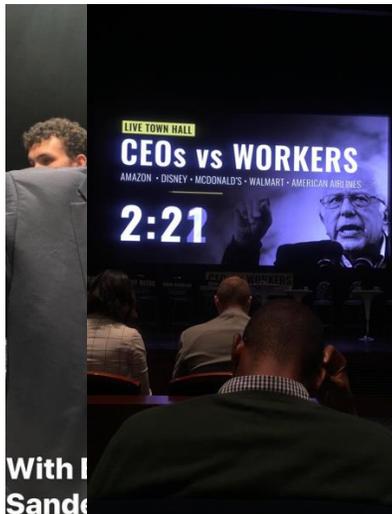


One of the most surreal moments I have had throughout this internship happened this Monday. I had the honor of meeting Senator Bernie Sanders. I shook his hand and was able to take a picture with him! Prior to meeting him, I was able to hear him speak and moderate a town hall that was titled CEOs vs Workers. Hearing him speak and interact with those on stage with him renewed my faith in politics. His humanity reassured my trust in knowing that there are people who actually care for those who are underrepresented. This also gave me more confidence to act as an advocate for those who do not have the chance to have their voices heard.



As I am approaching the final weeks of my internship, I realize how close I have become to the Office of Migrant Education Staff. Through our work collaborations and the valuable conversations, we have gotten to share I truly feel as though I have become part of the OME team. They even surprised me with a belated birthday cake on Thursday, which caught me by surprise. I tried to fight back tears of joy, but couldn't suppress my feelings. They have become more than just staff; they're my family.



Finally, to wrap up the week, I was able to attend my first Colombian Festival. For the majority of the time, I was interacting with many civilians who were partaking in the festivities of the festival. As a volunteer, I made sure things were running smoothly at the entrance of the festival but was able to enjoy some of the music and food during my lunch break. Coming from Oregon I had never had the chance to interact with someone from Colombian descent. By the end of the day, I noticed my Mexican accent had slightly shifted to have more of a Columbian flare. Although the festival had to combat the undesirable pouring rain, the patriotic participates danced and enjoyed the festival as if the rain wasn't



even there. I'm very thankful to have experienced such a wonderful celebration.