

No Week 7

This week brings me one-step closer to the end of my great experience interning in Washington D.C. This week I gained insight about many things from the next generation of students that will be following our footsteps steps, to looking at who is making the next big moves in Congress. Yet again, I had some great experiences meeting new people. My goal while in D.C. has been to meet at a minimum of a couple of new people each week to expand my network. This week I also spoke with my parents and shared many of the amazing experiences that I have had. I have only been able to talk to my parents occasionally due to our tight work schedules. This was a glimpse of how real life work schedules can influence the family dynamic.

At the start of the week, things at the office ran smoothly, and the interns were on task. My supervisors at the White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanics reported successful meetings with White House officials. This is always great news that keeps me motivated. I am a member of a group of young professionals who work on projects that help facilitate additional funding for Hispanic students.

I have had the privilege to work under Emanuel Caudillo. Since my placement, Emmanuel has allowed me a few extra minutes before lunch, so that I can meet someone new for coffee. He explained that networking is the one experience that I should be taking advantage of, and his supervisory style encourages bridging new connections. This week, I connected with MSU alumni, and I was excited to hear what they had to say. They asked if I wanted to study abroad, and I said yes! They encouraged me to look at the study abroad opportunities that MSU offers. I walked out of Starbucks with a decision to study abroad in Dubai this December. It's amazing how these interactions influenced me, and I'm excited to see what awaits me halfway around the world.



The most exciting thing this week was an assignment to chaperone high school students that visited Capitol Hill. The Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute has a program designated for young aspiring Latinx high school students who have an interest in government and politics. They were from San Antonio and I am from the Valley, so it was fun to share our experiences at the southern border. I shared my stories with them about San Antonio and they were surprised that I knew so much about the place. During our tour, the students visited a few congressional representative offices including Rep. Ted Cruz. I was very impressed with their awareness of politics and that they even asked questions. I knew that they had done their homework extensively because they asked about the issues that they are very passionate about. This makes me hopeful for the future. Although I believe that change is happening slowly, my interaction with the students from San Antonio is an example of progress. I don't think there was any

concern to have this group speak on behalf of the younger generation because from what I witnessed, I believe we will be in good hands.

Lastly, this week I have been working on an Op-Ed, which is a written piece that is typically published by a newspaper that expresses an opinion on a certain topic. I hope that my Op-Ed about the need for financial literacy courses in secondary education is selected to be published in a newspaper before I leave Washington DC.



In summary, the experiences that I had this week served as motivation. As I look back on how far I have come and everything that I have experienced since my first week in D.C., I hope that the last two weeks are full of great experiences, so that I can leave satisfied with my accomplishments. I understand that many people from my community are not able to have these type of experiences, which is why I plan to return, and work to encourage the youth like my brothers to take

advantage of all opportunities that lead to these types of experiences. I am delighted that these experiences are at the grasps of my hands and will continue to thank the CAMP and HEP Association for giving me this opportunity.