

## Week 7

Cherish the ones who are your champions. Cherish the ones who taught with words and care. This week I took moments to breathe and be thankful for every breath. Life is having inevitable moments where you want to give up, but in those moments *cherish* with all your might.

This week these ideals followed me every day and will continue to be a vital factor of my life. Let me explain. There are people in life who are toxic or do not necessarily add value to your goals or dreams. These people are not your champions. Champions are the ones who win and thrive from seeing you succeed. I want to dedicate this journal to my champions.

My family has been there for me since day one, literally. My parents planted the seed to my aspirations in life. They nurtured me with my basic necessities and words of wisdom, like a plant needs water yet light for growth. Their sacrifices are inscribed in my mind. Papa y Mama los quiero con todo mi corazon, gracias por todo lo que hacien para mi. Thank you.

My siblings never fail to make me proud and cheer me on at the same time. To my older sisters, you are my role models. To my little brother, I am excited to see you grow and succeed. To my baby nieces and nephew, I can't wait to help your mom and dad give you incredible opportunities that we did not have.

Michelle Kelley, all CAMP staff, and students, thank you for being my second family at college. You have a special place in my heart. This program is the beauty of a strong proud community. Thank you.

Rep. Grijalva, Cristina Villa, all staff and interns, thank you for making me feel welcome every single day. You made a girl who felt like she didn't belong in a place like DC feel like she could take on the world and more.

I have one last week to *cherish* this opportunity with all my heart and I will do just that and more. Thank you to *everyone* who supported me throughout this amazing journey and critical step in my future. I could not say thank you enough to truly express my gratitude.

My duty is to open doors for others like doors were opened for me. I want to give to those who are in need. I want to be a resource and add value to the chaotic society we live in today. I want to give others who struggle the ability to one day simply breathe and just *cherish*.

