

Week 8

Introductions, handshakes and welcoming smiles transformed into hugs of gratitude, “I’ll miss you”, keep in touch, and genuine thank yous; this was my week. Good bye is not used due to the preference or hope of I will see you later.

The week was very transitional. For clarification, these seven days were such a great time, full of so many ups, but subconsciously in the back of my mind I knew it would have to come to an end.

The week started with a piece of home. Michelle Kelley and a Boise State CAMP Student (one of my great friends) came to DC for the HEP/CAMP Directors Conference. I loved every moment with them. Spending time with them was so refreshing and honestly, I felt so at home.

Because of my office’s support I was able to spend lots of time with the HEP/CAMP Association with an exception of lunch with Rep. Grijalva. This lunch was not just about the menu but rather the people around the table and genuine words of wisdom from the Congressman.

I graduated from the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute Congressional Internship Program on Wednesday. I graduated with my friends by my side. I graduated with Michelle and Patrick cheering me on. I graduated, I will continue to graduate from college then from whatever life brings me. I will never stop trying to progress *for my parents* who never had this moment or opportunity.

Towards the end of the week, there was a theme. The theme was good bye. It started with my friend Ulises, who has not only made an impact on my life but many others with his story and character. I know I will see him soon at BSU but it was still a hard “see you later”. Next, I said a “see you soon” to Michelle and Patrick, two remarkable individuals that will continue to open doors for many students like me. It was like a movie, a good bye accompanied by rain, I watched them walk to the metro.

The following day, Rep. Grijalva shared some powerful words with me, thanked me, and said his good bye. Working in his office was a true blessing, I admire the work he and his staff do every day to create change.

To end the week, the CHCI interns prepared their bags as we spent time with them on their last day in DC. We laughed, listened, shared, cried, and smiled all in one night. That resembled my beautiful opportunity to spend a whole summer with people who know what it feels like to be different and to struggle. I am thankful for them and what they have taught me.

Good bye is not used here, I prefer a “see you later”.

