

Week 3

Week three has been the most challenging week so far. Although I have adjusted to the high paced city, the metro lines and the very loud ambience. Being a Washingtonian is difficult. I expressed my challenges to my co-interns and they too shared some of the same thoughts. Even though we are tired and drained from all of the work we do in our positions, we understand how this is building us professionally. Every day I remind myself that I belong here just like everyone else. I am happy with how progressive my thoughts have become, and how my thinking and experience benefits my community.



The rising tensions in DC have been more and more present as the days go by. Increasingly, the media is focused on the policy issues revolving immigration policies. I even had Telemundo stick a microphone in my face asking me how I felt about the issues however, I had to politely decline to answer due to the nature of my internship. Just recently, I began to finally understand how real these situations are. Just because I am not able to see these issues, it does not mean they are not happening. I hear the other departments at work talking about immigration all the time so the thought never leaves my mind. I hope that everything gets fixed in the coming days.

DC is a place where the Latinx people and culture is all over the place. I have noticed that the world cup has influenced the ambience of the city a bit and it has been very crazy. Fans from different countries come together and watch the games. That is why this week every Mexicano mood has been uplifted over the win against Germany. I was on the steps of the Capitol on Monday and I saw a group of Mexicanos talking about how anything is possible with so much pride and joy. That interaction took me back to when I was living in a 2-bedroom home with 7 people. I thought to myself, yes indeed anything is possible and my presence in in D.C. is proof that it is.

This week I also had the opportunity to be a part of a hearing decision at the United States Supreme Court. When I heard my boss tell me the news, I honestly could not believe it. We all camped outside of the courtroom at 5 am and waited four hours to enter and get a seat. I

was able to see Justice Sonia Maria Sotomayor. I would never believe if someone told me that I would be able to be this close to the first Latina Supreme Justice. She is one of my biggest idols in government as I aspire to someday rise to a position in government of similar caliber. The session was excellent but a bit out of the ordinary in seriousness. Justice Kennedy's humor made the experience different from any ordinary court decision I have experienced.

Further, in the week I did not have much to do so I decided to meet up with some of my fellow Spartans that are interning in Washington DC. Through Facebook, I found 15 Michigan State University students were staying at George Washington University. I reached out to a few of them and they invited me to join them to attend a networking event at the Capitol Hill. I was more than glad to attend and quickly realized the advantage of being a Spartan. Spartans are everywhere and it is easy to connect with them. My fellow Spartans were a lot older than I am, but they were very nice to lend a helping hand. As crazy as this may sound, I also bumped into one of my site leaders from a study abroad trip that I participated in to Huatulco Mexico. Then, the following day I bumped into some of my Turkish friends from California. They flew all the way to DC to participate in a protest against the presidential administration's policy about reuniting children to their families. I see that anything can happen in this city and seeing so many familiar people makes me feel more comfortable than I thought I was.

This week's sessions with the Congressional Hispanic Institute program (CHCI) was great. We had an informative session about how to guide high school students through CHCI's Ready2 Learn program. All of the CHCI and CAMP interns would be interacting with high school students from across the country. We also met with Domenika Lynch who is the President and CEO of CHCI. Her story was so captivating and her interaction with us felt so genuine.

