

Week 4

It has been a month since my internship began, and it comes to show me just how quickly time flies. I am halfway into my internship program, and I feel that I have grown intellectually as well as professionally. The seminars and networking events that I have attended with my CAMP interns has expanded my vision in politics. This week I recognized the importance of networking and how it may benefit me in the future. I have met very important people and have been informed about others that I will be meeting in the next few days. I hope that my last month in DC will continue to be as great as this week was. A week full of memorable experiences and insightful knowledge.

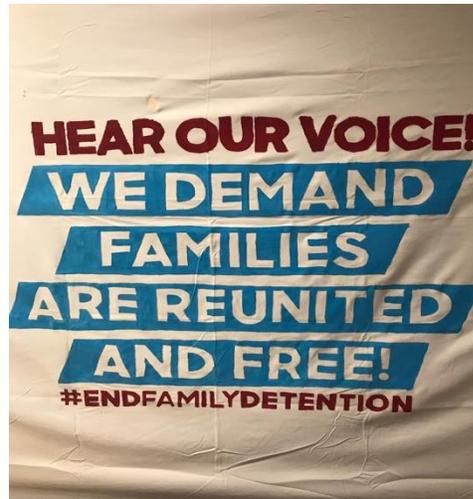


At the start of the week, my fellow interns from The White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanics (WHI) were invited to a White House STEM summit. It was an excellent opportunity for us to be able to network and learn about the developing plans for the STEM fields in the United States. The summit focused on developing a new 4-year plan organized by White House staff and members from other agencies like NASA. It felt great being around so many important people and collecting business cards left and right all day was exciting. All of the interns were also able to take pictures with one of the astronauts that had taken trips to the international space station. The event was a great success and I was happy that we were able to take part in it.



In the middle of the week, we received some news about who we would be meeting in the next few days and how we would need to organize our schedule. It turns out that one of the upcoming meetings will be with the Secretary of Education, Betsy DeVos. Our director made it possible for the interns to have coffee and donuts with her to allow us to share our educational experiences with her. This is a once in a lifetime opportunity and all my fellow interns at the Initiative are happy to take part in it. We plan to discuss how we believe that the Initiative can be more progressive towards the educational opportunities for Hispanic students and how a great quality education can be beneficial for everyone. I am glad that the White House Initiative gave us this platform so that we can be a voice for our community to someone who is at the top of the Department of Education.

This week, tensions continue to rise on issues on immigration policy and the separation of children from their families. The Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute (CHCI) collaborated with Voto Latino to organize a sign-making event for the CHCI and CAMP interns to participate. We volunteered to make signs that voiced our stance on the harsh immigration policies. I felt great participating in the rally and at that moment, being surrounded by people who genially care about the issue so deeply. The following day most of the interns attended the immigration rally that moved me emotionally because of the scene of community and togetherness. The rally was Nationwide and was organized in many of the big cities like Detroit, Chicago, and Brownsville, Texas. Some of the interns even made it on headline news with their picture at the front of articles which to me was truly captivating.



Lastly, at the end of the week, the director of the Office of Migrant Education, in the Department of Education invited us for a good old southern Barbeque. The interns and I relaxed with the director and talked about what we were planning to do after the internship was over. I also talked at great length about Texas since many of the folks at the barbeque were originally from there. That cookout was a great way to end the week and am glad the Whites invited us into their home.