

Week 6

Yet again, the speed of time amazes me. This internship has only a couple of weeks left before it ends and yet I am happy with the experiences that I have obtained so far. It feels as if it was just yesterday that I was boarding my flight to Washington DC. So much happened this week. From meeting new friends to trying different local eateries. There is so much to do in the nation's capital that it is a difficult task to look at the city's ins and outs with a week's worth of exploring. I am happy that I have a few more days to continue exploring the city as I soon plan to make this city my home.

At the start of the week, it was finally time for the meeting with the Secretary of Education, Betsy DeVos. The other interns at the White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanics (WHI) and I were nervous. I prepared a few questions that I wanted to ask her but I knew that with so many interns meeting her that it would be difficult for her to address all of the questions. Just like my other meetings with a prominent official, she asked that we introduce ourselves. There are times when I only know someone from media outlets and what they have to say about them, but this meeting humanized her. It was almost as if she was someone completely different in person. My fellow interns at the Initiative thought the experience was great, going on to say that Latinx folk seat at the table is getting more and more visible.



The following day the Department of Education gave the interns the day off so that we could tour the capital with a guide. Through this experience, I was able to meet the rest of the interns of the Department of Education. Surprisingly, I met other interns from Michigan State University. I also made some friends who are students at Michigan State University's rival school, the University of Michigan. It always surprises them how young I am as most of interns are rising seniors, so I really enjoy being asked what year I am in college.

During the tour, I made an amazing friend named Christina who is interning at the Office of English Language Acquisition. She is originally from New York and is a person full of so much energy. I had a great expertise in touring the capital because she just made the experience so much fun.

After our tours finished, I had some fun with my fellow interns and took a multitude of pictures at the capital building. I really appreciate the dedication and professionalism that my interns have when taking photos ensuring that the quality of each picture taken is tip-top and crisp. It was quite fun to have someone else take so much time taking our pictures. It comes to show how much of a bond we have forged.



Things at initiative continued to go smoothly as my colleagues and I continued to work on our assigned projects. My supervisor recommended a great place to eat called The Timber Pizza Company which I visited during the weekend. As a person that appreciates a great slice of pizza, I have to say that this is by far the best-tasting pizza that DC has to offer.



As the week ended, I decided that I would take some photos at the national mall with all of the various monuments. Having the famous Washington monument towering over me makes me nostalgic regardless of how many times I visit. I am excited to show all of my photos to my parents and to my family who I am sure are excited to hear all about my experiences.