

## My Journal

By Karla Denise Arana

Week 8 (July 23-July 29, 2018)

Week eight, I attended the HEP CAMP Directors meeting, where the other interns and I spoke about our experiences this summer. It was honor to speak to those who have supported on this journey. It was also exciting to see and catch up with my CAMP Director/Advisor, Stacy Mendez. I joined Stacy and another CAMP director from Kansas in meeting with our senators and representative from Kansas' District 2, which is my district. I shared my story, how Heartland CAMP has helped me to be successful during my freshman year, and how the program has impacted my life overall. In the evening, my director and I went to get dinner, during which I had the opportunity to tell her all my stories and experiences of being in DC and working in a congressional office. It was so exciting to see someone who reminded me of home and reminded of me the reason I am here — to improve my community.



I also had the opportunity to have dinner with Patrick, Stacy, Michelle and the other interns. It was a great experience to converse with

everybody and share all our wonderful experiences. This week was a blessing for me, I deeply appreciate being around people who work hard and fight for not only students like me, but for all disadvantaged groups and minorities in order to improve the world.



This week, I graduated from the CHCI program. This was a unique experience because the speakers were members of Congress, as well as other people who support the Latinx community. All the staff members in my office attended the graduation, and Congresswoman Roybal-Allard accompanied me to the graduation and gave a speech. I was happy that my CAMP Director, Stacy, was able to attend the graduation. I took pictures with everybody and will have some amazing memories.

