

## Week 8

This week I was able to attend the HEP and CAMP Association Directors' meetings that allowed me the opportunity to understand the programs at a much closer level. I was exposed to a lot of information that CAMP students often do not get the opportunity to see. I engaged in educational conversations with many directors from various HEP and CAMP programs, and I learned so much from them. Many exciting things happened this week and I am happy to have been able to experience them.

Early this week, I assisted the Office of Migrant Education with their yearly meeting with the CAMP and HEP directors. This conference brought directors from all over the United States. I was happy to see that the directors from my university also attended. They have shaped me into the person that I am today. They contribute so much in the learning process, and do what is best for their students. I was able to spend some time with them and share my experiences in DC. I felt like I was talking with my family at the dinner table, discussing new ideas and thoughts. These interactions with my directors just made the learning experience so much more genuine.

All the HEP/CAMP interns made Hill visits with our program directors. Another CAMP scholar from MSU interning at WHI joined us too. We spoke to staffers from Michigan's House offices about the impact of CAMP. We shared how we benefitted from the academic and social aspects of the program. As I was sharing my experience with them, I reflected on all of the services that CAMP provided to enable my success, like study abroad and learning how to network. CAMP has really helped me with the tools to assist with a successful transition to college. Being able to experience this, gave me a clear understanding just how hard our directors work to have local officials support the CAMP program.



This was the final week of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Program. Seeing all of my CHCI friends at graduation caused me to reflect on my experiences with them, and the impact they had on me. Standing with them at graduation made me sad that this internship was ending. The CHCI interns are doing great things in their communities, but they have so much more to offer. They are very knowledgeable about so many different issues and events, and through my interaction with them, I have gained insight and motivation to learn and do more. Interacting with them gave me confidence in my own performance throughout this internship. I

will never forget this experience, and I am thankful I could share my ideas to help my community. I was very proud to hear the CHCI interns say, "Wow and you're only a rising

sophomore!” The encouragement that I received from my fellow CHCI interns proves how great of an environment this program creates.

Next week is my last week in Washington D.C. So far, every week has provided a different experience and this week was no exception. I am grateful to end each week more knowledgeable and more motivated to keep helping communities. I am happy to have participated in the meetings with the Office of Migrant Education this week and assist in another successful directors meeting. This week’s experience has influenced my thoughts around education policy, and I hope to be able to share it.

