

Julia Santiago

Week 2: June 2-8

One piece of advice that stayed with me this whole week was to, "Try to learn something new each day!" Every day I woke up with excitement and looked forward to ask more questions. This week focused on settling in and transitioning into what was going to be my workplace for the next eight weeks.

On Monday, my first day of my internship, I stepped foot on the seventh floor, and got to know my supervisor more. I had been waiting for this day; although nervous, I was ready to take on this opportunity. Later that morning, I found out that the Secretary of Education's office is on the seventh floor. My supervisor informed me that all the interns would have the chance to meet her and ask her questions. My supervisor made sure to make me feel at home, he gave me great advice on how to navigate D.C. My first task was to write and reflect on an experience I had during my first year at the University of Idaho.

As the week progressed, I became familiar with acronyms, which is a big thing here in D.C. and used frequently at the Department of Education. On Wednesday, I worked from home! My supervisor gave another intern and me a project to finish that will be posted on the White House Initiative's website. How exciting! Who would think I would be coming to D.C. to work under the Department of Education? On Wednesday evening, we had a networking night with CHCI alumni. I reached out to a CHCI alumna who was a teacher. Being an education major, I am always interested in learning about people's journey and the reasons why they wanted to become teachers. She told me about "Teach for America," which was something I had not heard about before.

Later on, in the week I got a call from my parents saying, "Julia estamos muy orgullosos de ti, y nomas echale ganas," (Julia we are so proud of you, give it your all). My mom also told me about her day in the fields. One value she has instilled in me is to be humble and never forget where I came from. One of the reasons I am here today is because of the fields.

Yesterday, (Saturday) we met another CAMP intern from Oregon. Two weeks have gone by and getting to know the rest of the CAMP interns has been amazing. We have gone walking to Georgetown, tasted overpriced cupcakes, and gone out to eat some pupusas.

I can't wait for what the next weeks will bring!

