

## Julia Santiago

Week 3: June 9-16

I can't believe it's Sunday already. This week came fast and went by faster.

Starting Monday, our supervisor gave us an overview of what our week was going to look like. I felt intrigued at all the projects we were going to be working on. Monday we attended a workshop led by people of color; seeing two females of color at my workplace made it feel more comforting.

On Tuesday, I met another intern who was also going to interning with the White House Initiative. The following day we ate lunch with other interns who work on the second floor of the Department of Education. We all had the opportunity to connect and hear how each of us got to our internship positions.

Thursday, we worked from home. My supervisor is moving offices and the office space that the interns work in was to be used temporarily by another department. By working at a federal agency, I have noticed that being flexible is a great skill to have, whether it be to add on another meeting, change my lunchtime, or be willing to work from home. In addition, I attended my first briefing! I heard and learned about statistics on Hispanics in higher education. Later that evening, we attended the Nationals Baseball Game, sponsored by the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute (CHCI). The Washington Nationals played the Arizona Diamondbacks and I had mixed feelings on who to root for. Why? Two years ago, I went to my first baseball game in Phoenix, Arizona where the D-backs were playing (that also happened to be the first time I got on a plane to attend the National Council of La Raza Leadership Conference). It seemed unreal to me that while being in Washington D.C. I watched a game where the Nationals were playing against the D-backs.



CHCI trainings are always on Fridays. This week's programming session really made me think about how we identify ourselves. All of us had the opportunity to listen to our peer's perspective on certain terms that should be used to describe us as a community. The rest of the afternoon, we went the National Museum of African American History and Culture. On Friday, I met another CAMP intern, Wendy, who is an Education major as well!

Saturday was a new experience. I went kayaking for the first time! At first, I was a bit scared. Thankfully, Eduardo (CAMP Intern) showed me how to paddle and I soon got the hang of it.

As the weeks go by, the CAMP interns and I are becoming more like a family. Washington D.C. has been a place of new experiences and I look forward to what other new adventures await.

