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Week 3

“The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy.” –Martin Luther King, Jr.

My second week at the office consisted of small assignments from my different co-workers, attending meetings and getting my email set up. I finally got my security clearance, which meant that I could finally have my own badge and I would not have to be escorted in and out of the building. On Tuesday, the office decided to get some gelato after a meeting and that was really nice to go outside and enjoy the sun a bit before going back to work. It was also very fun to hear different stories from my co-workers and getting to know a bit more about them and their families. After work on Tuesday, I finally stepped out of my comfort zone and decided to attend some briefings on the hill. I was really determined this week to step out of my comfort zone and do something I had not done before. When I entered the briefing, there was a lot of people and I got very intimidated and shy so I grabbed some food and sat in the corner since I did not see anyone I recognized from CHCI. After a few moments of sitting by myself, a young lady sat next to me and I decided to make small talk with her when I learned that she attended George Washington University and we got to bond over the dorm halls for a bit. It was so cool seeing how simply going to different events can connect me with different people that I otherwise would not have met. After a while of speaking to her, I met up with some of my CHCI friends and went to different briefings together to get free food. I highly recommend going to briefings at least once a week since you never know who you are going to meet and it is also free dinner! On Wednesday, everyone from CHCI got to attend the Tri-Caucus event where the Asian Pacific American Institute for Congressional Studies (APAICS) and Congressional Black Caucus Foundation (CBCF) met to network. I got to meet so many people and I even met a girl named Kat who attended Washington State University and is now working in D.C. It was really nice connecting with someone who is from the same area as me back in Washington State. On Thursday, my other co-worker that was an intern, Kimberly, finally came in to work and I helped her get settled into the office. We took a tour of the building, got lunch and we talked a bit about ourselves. Kimberly is such an astonishing woman and she is very bright and wholesome. Although she graduated high school with a very low G.P.A she did not allow that to hinder her ability in excelling in her community college and becoming very involved. She now is going to attend UCLA in the fall and is considering doing law as a future profession. Hearing her story really reminded me that even though we go through hardships and we fail at times, it is important to always get back up on our feet and strive to improve the best we can. I also told her my story and she was very surprised how working in the fields is such a normal activity for young children in my hometown since she is from a city where agriculture is not very prominent. Exchanging both of our stories was a very meaningful moment to me and it fills me with relief knowing that despite hardships or adversity, my community is always working hard to try its best in any endeavor. On Friday, CHCI had its weekly programming at George Washington University with a professor and the class discussed the importance of self-identity. We had debates about

how different people may refer to themselves as Latinx, Hispanic or Chicax. I personally refers to myself as Latina and I refer to my community as Latinx simply because I feel like it is more inclusive of everybody in Latin America as well is gender neutral. CHCI also got the opportunity to attend the African American museum in the afternoon and that was such a unique experience. The African American Museum is a very big museum with six floors and a whole lot to see. I definitely wish we would have had more time since I feel like I did not get to see everything that I would have liked but nonetheless the museum really opened my eyes on American history and I felt honored to have the opportunity to visit. On Friday evening, my fellow HEP CAMP friends decided to all have dinner at Bertucci's to celebrate the new intern that came, Wendy. It was really nice having the evening filled with pizza and laughter and it also brought back memories of the first night that I arrived in D.C. when Patrick took us to have dinner at Bertucci's. On Saturday evening, some of the HEP CAMP interns went kayaking on the Potomac River in Georgetown. This was really fun and also very relaxing getting to enjoy the river.

I chose the quote above for Martin Luther King because this week I learned that I did not get the grades I would have liked for my Spring Quarter at my university. I felt very bad about myself and I regret not trying harder or doing more. I came to the realization, however, that dwelling about my grades is not going to solve anything and the only thing that is left to do is see my grades as a challenge to work harder in the remaining of my college career and strive towards the G.P.A. that I know I can achieve.

