

"Protests and Programing"

Journal Week 7

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This week I attended my first protest in D.C and it was amazing to see the unwavering support everyone was giving to one cause. In my time here I have learned that it is easy to get lost and confused in the political atmosphere of the city but if you stay firm in your belief you can stay grounded. The protest was called “Lights for Liberty” and it consisted of a vigil in remembrance to the children who died at the border detention centers. Everyone has been viewing this issue from different perspectives, but being in the middle of it all, where decisions are made for the future of our communities, makes things a little harder to digest. The protest had many wonderful speakers and performers that made sure to emphasize that they will do anything in their power to make sure that our voices are heard. It is always nice to see that the Latinx community does not stand alone in certain issues and that we have a support system that stands beside us in these long and tireless fights. I was also able to attend a congressional hearing on the issue this week and it was extremely hard seeing a mother testify on how she lost her child due to the conditions of these facilities, as well as someone make the argument that it is about numbers and data. All these issues sometimes weigh heavy on my shoulders but it is also a huge reminder of why I am here learning and working hard.



The week consisted of a long day of programming on Friday, which is something we have been doing since we started our internship. The first half of the day always starts off with our grad level course in public policy with our GW professor. We get to do a lot of great presentations and even act out hearings! The class has been very helpful in expanding my knowledge of public policy. The second half of the day always consists of guest speakers that teach us about various topics. This week we learned about the impact of the census and also we had a conversation on voting rights. Each Friday brings something new and even though the day is really long. It is worth it and I always feel that I come out with extensive knowledge on a new topic.



I ended the week celebrating two birthdays! I first went out to a cute little restaurant called “El Techo” with all the CAMP interns to celebrate Metzinz’s 21st birthday! It was nice getting to explore a new part of the city and it is always fun spending time with my CAMP family. We have all become closer in the past couple of weeks. It was so hard to not order a lot of food because I had to save my appetite for the next dinner party I had to attend. The good thing is that we all ordered small appetizers and that did the trick. Afterwards it took a 10 minute walk to the next restaurant to celebrate another birthday. It was Vyanka and she is part of CHCI corehort. We all went to a really amazing place called “Matchbox” and we all go to eat a complete meal. After that we spent some time walking around town and got to see some really cool places. I am really glad that I have been able to meet so many new people throughout my time here! I can’t wait to see what the next week holds in store for us all.