

"Graduation"

Journal Week 9

By: Catherin Flores Granados



This week was graduation week and I can officially say that I am a CHCI alumni! Besides graduating, my week was pretty hectic and packed with events and conferences. There was so much going on this week, I thought I wasn't going to get through it all but I did! The week started with the HEP/CAMP Annual Directors Meeting where I got to meet several of the directors that flew out to be at the meeting. I was super excited to see my CAMP director Pathy Leiva and my Internship Coordinator and HEP/CAMP Director Patrick Doone who has helped me so much in this process. All the CAMP interns had to assist with meeting and were able to attend the hill visits with their directors. All this became a little stressful because I had the CHCI graduation and I also had to prepare for my office conference which was all in the same week!

At last I made it through, I was extremely grateful that I was able to speak and receive a certificate from the HEP/CAMP annual directors meeting. I thought it was very important that HEP/CAMP knew how grateful we all were for this wonderful opportunity. No matter how fast pace this week was, my favorite part was being able to participate in the 2019 HEP/ CAMP Annual Directors Meeting at the Department of Education.



Like I mentioned before, being part of the annual HEP/CAMP meeting requires all the directors to make hill visits to speak to their Representatives and Senators. I was really happy that I got to spend time with my director Pathy even though she got tired because I made her walk a lot!

Before we headed to our meeting we decided to take some pictures by our favorite senators' offices. In the picture above I took a picture by Senator Elizabeth Warren's office, we weren't able to catch her because she was a bit busy running for president. After taking some pictures we headed to our meeting with Senator Shumer, it was a really great experience to be able to explain what CAMP is and how it helps our migrant/farm working students. So that our representatives and senators are more aware of these programs. We also spoke with Congressman's Antonio Delgado's office from our district, it was really good to know that we have his support. The HEP/CAMP annual directors meeting ended on Wednesday and I was extremely sad that I had to say goodbye to Patrick and Pathy. We finished off with a really great dinner and then parted ways. After all the directors left, my week was still full of events for me. From attending a soccer game to running around at six in the morning trying to find the hotel my office was holding the conference at. Even though most weeks were stressful, and busy, it was also extremely fun!



I ended the week sleeping in and doing some relaxing activities. Since the week was so hectic I had forgotten that it was my last weekend in D.C. To commemorate this last weekend, some of us decided to go kayaking on the Potomac River. I was super scared at first because I thought the boat would tip over but it ended up being super relaxing. Sitting in water watching the sunset felt soothing and calming. As I sat there, I started to realize how much I was going to miss D.C. but at last, all good things must come to an end. I can't wait to see what adventures my last week will hold for me.