

Julia Santiago

Week 5: June 24-30

Monday, I woke to my alarm at 5:30 a.m. I woke up early to get a chance to hear the Supreme Court hearings. Waiting in line for almost three hours wasn't what I expected but it was worth it. My supervisor from the White House Initiative made it a priority for all the interns to attend a hearing. I saw Sonia Sotomayor from a far. I first learned about Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor when I was in eighth grade and I am fascinated by what she has accomplished. The gift shop holds her book, "My Beloved World," with her autograph, which I will make sure to pick up and read.

On Tuesday, we attended an Education Briefing at the White House! Yes, the White House! Well part of the White House it was the Eisenhower Building. The interns with The Initiative and I connected with different agencies that were there like NASA, U.S Department of Education, and Homeland Security. One item that I would like to share that was mentioned was the Opportunity Bank. The White House Initiative On Education Excellence for Hispanics created a page where you have access to learn and apply to various internships. Sometimes it can be hard to locate specifically where the internship link page is on a website, but the Opportunity Bank is just one click away. You just click on the agency's emblem.

https://sites.ed.gov/hispanic-initiative/federal-agencies-internship-opportunities/?utm_content=&utm_medium=email&utm_name=&utm_source=govdelivery&utm_term=)

On Wednesday, we helped CHCI with their Next Gen program. This program brings 50 students from different regions to D.C. and helps them explore the different opportunities there are. Our duties were to give the high school students a tour of the Capitol Building, tell them about our experience so far as interns, and to be their guide when they met with their Representatives. The high schoolers I helped chaperon were rising juniors and seniors. It was amazing to see them take advantage of this opportunity to learn about internships on the hill at such a young age.

Wednesday evening, most of the CAMP interns went to the Congressional Baseball Game. Although I still don't understand how the scoring for baseball works, I enjoyed my time at the game. The stadium was fuller than the Nationals game I attended a couple weeks back.

Saturday afternoon I volunteered at a food bank. I was in a group to sort different dry products into specific groups. Sunday morning from 6:30 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. I volunteered at S.O.M.E (So Others Might Eat) to serve people food who come for a warm breakfast and lunch meal. As I was cleaning tables, I noticed an apron with autographs from the Obamas. Next to the apron was a picture of former President Barack Obama when he went to volunteer. It was nice to see that our former President went to volunteer his time with his family and help the community.

This week has been the busiest yet, but with unforgettable memories.

