

Julia Santiago: Week 9

July 22-28

Along with the rest of the College Assistance Migrant Program (CAMP) interns, we are delighted this week is finally here. This week we will get to spend time with our wonderful CAMP Directors! When I walked to the LBJ Auditorium, I couldn't find Evelina (my CAMP director), but later spotted her. Today all the CAMP interns had two minutes to speak at the HEP/CAMP annuals directors meeting. There was one common message that resonated with all of us, that farmworker children can take part in opportunities like working on The Hill or at U.S Department of Education in Washington D.C. At the HEP/CAMP Association Meeting, I met many CAMP Directors and my heart was warm from seeing many mentors that support students like myself. Also, we were united with Patrick! A wonderful person who stayed with us during our first week in D.C.

After having lunch with my director, we headed to our meetings with Representatives and Senators. In total, we had four meetings, but most likely we're going to meet with their staff. These meetings are to show the importance of CAMP programs and how they benefit students who come from a migrant or seasonal farmworking background. At each meeting, I had a couple minutes to talk about my experience in farmwork and how CAMP has been a great support during my first year in college. CAMP has benefited many students like me, and there are many reasons why CAMP should continue to be funded. I am a product of this program, thanks to CAMP I am not working in the cherry orchards this summer; I am working at the U.S Department of Education. A HUGE thank you to University of Idaho CAMP, my CAMP brothers and sisters for being my family away from home during my first year.

Monday evening, Evelina (my CAMP Director) and I were ready for dinner. We were accompanied by Areli Arteaga, a former CAMP student and intern who is now working for United Farmworkers. El Chalan, has delicious menu of Peruvian cuisine! (A must in D.C) After dinner, we had Captain Cookie, an ice cream sandwich place (another must). Our Monday evening ended with a picture.

Tuesday morning, most of the personnel from the 7th floor of the U.S Department of Education accompanied by the Secretary of Education, Betsy DeVos got a tour of the National Museum of African American History and Culture. Tuesday afternoon, all the CHCI interns had graduation. Graduating meant that we were one-step closer to completing our internship. Wednesday, we had dinner at Bertucci's with HEP/CAMP board members.

On Friday, we had CHCI programming. After a lecture, we headed to Facebook. We met with three Latinos/as. We asked them questions about how they earned their position, graduate school, and how it is to work in the private sector. We got a tour of their offices, and delicious snacks. I had dinner with my intern friends from The Initiative. We wanted to spend time together before we all departed D.C.

CHCI gave us tickets to visit the Newseum. We spent 4 hours on Saturday, going from floor to floor. My favorite part was on the second floor where we could record ourselves like if we were actual news reporters. We got to see part of the Berlin wall and a watch tower!

I got to go kayaking again! My roommate, Cathy and I partnered up and tried our best to paddle. I had forgotten what Eduardo taught me when we first went a couple weeks back. Although boats were close to our kayak and it was scary, we had fun.

Sunday, Cathy, Wendy, Marlene and I went to buy souvenirs. We were on the lookout to get the best deal. Our last store that we stopped by had great deals: shirts for \$5, and hats for \$9. I was able to buy something for my family, a shirt or hat. When I got back to my dorm, I realized that there was only 6 days left! Now the countdown begins to go home.

