

“GOODBYE D.C”

Journal Week 10

By: Catherin Flores Granados



My last week in D.C has been full of mixed emotions. My week started out with me saying goodbye to my office, unfortunately both my supervisors were gone because of personal matters so I didn't get to say goodbye. As for the rest of my office, they treated me to pizza! My office was one of the things I was going to miss the most, they always treated me as part of the team and valued my opinions. I met some of the most incredible people in the office and I was really sad to say goodbye. I also tried to spend as much time as I could with my CAMP family and CHCI family. A couple of us went out to eat Houndram food during the week, as we sat there we spoke on what were our next steps and we had a great time in our last moments in DC. The experiences I've had with my cohort were some of the best memories I'll always remember and cherish forever. All the people I meet in this program are extraordinary!! I have never met so many people that were so similar to me and knew where I was coming from. We are all unique in our own way, but we all had that drive to succeed to be the best we could to help our communities. If I could give a shout to all the people I connected with in my cohort

I would but there are too many to count. I really can't wait to see what the future holds for all of us!



On Friday night all of the CAMP interns and I decided to end our time in D.C the way started it, the difference this time was that we didn't need Patrick as a tour guide anymore! Still, we love him for showing us around and we missed him. We ate dinner and then ventured out to see the monuments one last time. I can officially say that I have too many pictures of the Washington Monument on my phone. Our night consisted of us telling crazy stories about our lives and laughing until our stomachs hurt. I find it interesting that we bonded the most during our last night in D.C, but it made me realize how much I would be missing everyone. I was going to miss Eduardo, always taking us places because we had no clue where we were going, Marlene and Wendy never being afraid of anything and always being awkwardly funny, Rosa and Metzlin always venturing off to take pictures somewhere and Julia always being the best roommate ever and letting me talk her ear off about work. The CAMP family that I created in D.C holds a special place in my heart. They are some of the most amazing people I've ever met and I wish them the best in everything that comes in the future!

My last night in D.C was a very emotional night, there was a lot going through my mind. What is next for me? How can I just go back to living my life knowing how much more there is out there? My whole life I've been surrounded by people who thought the government was this big thing that was out of our reach, when in reality it's something that's right in our grasp. I came into this internship wanting to find a clear path to my future and ended up walking in the same halls that some of the most powerful people in the country walked in. I got to meet so many successful and outstanding Latinx women and men that really have created a name for themselves in and out of government work. I wasn't able to find a clear path to my future but I was able to create an outline of what I wanted it to be. On our last

day of programing they asked us if we had caught the “D.C bug” and for some reason I wasn't sure. I had fallen in love with the city and the daily life that I created, but being in the midst of where all the decisions for your community are being made was a bit overwhelming. Throughout the internship and even before I came, I struggled with feeling like I belonged there but my CAMP family made sure to remind me that I did. I am truly grateful for CAMP and this wonderful opportunity they gave me. I am really glad that they saw the potential in me to do this because I would have never seen it in myself. I know what I want my future to look like now and what is more important is that I have the confidence to get there.

Goodbye D.C, for now...



