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Program: *University of Idaho*

Placement: *The League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC)*

Journal Entry – Week 3

The third week of the internship followed the same format as the second week, but I didn't work on Thursday nor Friday. I started the week off with work with LULAC and then continued with a GWU class. The class was very interesting, and we really delved into our identities as Latinx. We not only went through the different ways we choose to identify ourselves (Latinx, Hispanic, by country of origin, etc) and how those identifiers came to be, but we also talked about what went into defining our identities. I really enjoyed hearing everyone's different and similar opinions, thoughts, and experiences revolving around the topic.

On Wednesday, we had a CHCI session where we were able to hear a speaker share her experiences in DC and give helpful advice on networking and finding opportunities. Everything she said was extremely helpful and useful that I spent the whole time she spoke rapidly taking notes of what she was saying. Afterwards, we heard from Nelson Cruz, who is the Social Media & Digital Content Manager for CHCI, speak on his personal experiences as an Afro-Latino. Then we delved into the topic of colorism and racism in our culture and in the media. I'd heard a bit about colorism in telenovelas before, but I hadn't realized how prevalent of an issue it was in films that were meant to be inclusive and representative. A big example of colorism in the media that was brought up was the recently released movie *In the Heights*. While the movie was based around Washington Heights, a mostly Afro-Latinx community, the movie was mostly led by lighter skinned Latinx folks. The movie was meant to be rich in diversity, but it ended up severely lacking representation for the actual Washington Heights community. A lot of great

points were brought out throughout the session and it was eye opening to hear about everyone's experiences, thoughts, and opinions about the topics. It was a great session as it really allowed me to learn more and grow my understanding about the topics.

On Wednesday, I also had a meeting with the rest of the HEP/CAMP Interns, Patrick, and Lisa Gillette, a member of the Office of Migrant Education. It was a great meeting, Lisa spoke of the Office of Migrant Education and what it does, her journey getting there, and answered any questions we had. She was very pleasant to talk to and made a genuine effort to get to know us. Like I said at the beginning of the journal, this was a short week for me. I only worked Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. On Thursday, I attended a scholarship luncheon for the Idaho Latino Scholarship Foundation where I got to speak as a recipient of the scholarship, share a bit about my story, and even talk to a news reporter. On Friday, I got the day off as Juneteenth is now officially a federal holiday!