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Program: *State University of New York - Oneonta*

Placement: *Poder Latinex*

Journal Entry – Week 2

My second week with CHCI started with a class on Monday and a cohort meeting on Wednesday. Before class, I learned about Nancy Y. Augustine from George Washington University. She teaches public policy at their graduate school. For our first lecture we learned about congress as lawmakers, and we also had a committee stimulation. In this activity, many of my fellow interns had roles to debate a bill. The bill was about implementing ignition interlocks for convicted drunk drivers. I was eager to participate and be able to think from different perspectives about the topic. At the end of class, I had learned about the complexity of making a law, all the different evidence and opinions presented in a committee, and how the decision can have different impacts on different groups of people. It was overall a great experience and expanded my knowledge of the lawmaking process.

On Wednesday, CHCI planned a cohort activity. All the interns made a reflection on their identity using a social identity wheel along with some guiding questions. I think that so far this has been one of the best experiences with CHCI done virtually. At first, I was only thinking of my experiences as they related to my national origin, first language, and gender. The interns in my group also talked about gender and what it meant for many of us in Mexican culture; all the interns in my group were Mexican so we laughed and talked about this for a minute. After hearing their answers to the identity questions, I realized that many of their experiences were also influenced by race and its social construction, something that I did not see on my wheel or as part of my answers. I realized that this was a great opportunity to have an intersectional way of thinking. While many

of us shared similar experiences we also had different factors of our identities impact us in diverse ways. However, we were able to create an environment in which we all shared these experiences. Being able to relate to my group and having a space to talk about some of my experiences was motivating.

On Wednesday, I received my placement with the Poder Latinx organization. I'm very excited to start my internship and help promote the voices in my community.