

# Daniela Aguilar-Carranza | HEPCAMP DC Intern

**Program:** *University of Idaho*

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

## Journal Entry – Week 5

**Monday**-----

This week started off a bit different than usual. I had a dentist appointment on Monday morning that I couldn't reschedule, so I asked my LULAC supervisor for the morning off. I only missed three hours from my usual workday, so it wasn't too hard to make up the hours throughout the week. I was able to work one hour with LULAC where I attended a legislative meeting and took notes on what was discussed.

Afterwards, I had an hour lunch break and then logged on to my CHCI session. This week, we finished discussing about media bias and the bias in today's world since we were not able to complete it last week due to some technical issues. We delved into different news sites and what political side they leaned towards and how that affected the way they portrayed news. Then we looked at examples and analyzed them ourselves. It was super intriguing to see the differences and we were able to identify which were the more unbiased news sources and which were the most biased depending on factors such as use of opinion, misleading information, incomplete facts, etc.

After finishing up the session, Dr. Augustine had us do a simulation of a hearing that a District Council held and gave everyone roles such as public health advocate, union representative, etc. Every person that held a role had to share their opinion, answer questions, and/or ask questions as to whether the city should offer a grant program to help performing arts centers get back on their feet. I was given the role of a city resident and I had to give a testimony based on my character's description and information. It was interesting to be a part of this simulation and a bit nerve-wracking as well because I had never written a testimony and was nervous it wouldn't make sense. Everything ended up going smoothly and I was able to answer questions given to me after my testimony as well. I learned a lot about how a public hearing runs through this simulation and I'll definitely be more prepared when going into a real one.

## **Tuesday**-----

On Tuesday, I worked on my LULAC assignments and attended a weekly staff meeting. I tracked some current legislation that is being introduced, worked on documenting and analyzing microaggressions against the Hispanic community, and wrote up descriptions for my assigned workshops for the 2021 Virtual Summit, an event LULAC puts on annually. I find all the work I was assigned really interesting so while it was a long day, it didn't seem that way because I was able to get distracted by my work.

## **Wednesday**-----

On Wednesday, we heard from some individuals who spoke about various topics such as their experiences in different working environments, with coworkers from different viewpoints, and how they dealt with both. I found myself relating to a lot of what they were saying and found what they shared to be very insightful. They had both similar and different ways with dealing with differences and it was great to hear a variety of advice. One piece of advice that was helpful was that there's no way there will ever be someone with the exact same views as you, but one thing you can do to find common ground is communicating with each other similar interests you share.

Then we moved on to our cohort check-in where we each shared what we did to relieve stress. I loved hearing what everyone had to say because I'm always looking for new ways to find relaxation and get rid of stress as I'm not the best at it. I mentioned I wanted to start journaling as I'd heard great things about it and asked if anyone had tips on getting started and I got some advice from several different individuals who did journaling themselves. I'm hoping it's something I can get into as the only things I do for relieving stress right now are working out, reading and when I can, hiking. We ended off the day with an exercise on ending bias and we took a test to see if we had existing bias based on age. I ended up having a slight bias towards younger people, as did most of the cohort. I found it slightly surprising because I didn't think I would have a bias, but I guess it makes sense that I would have a slight bias towards those similar in age as me. I'm curious to see if the way the test was formatted affected the results and would like to see if I would get different results if I took it with the questions ordered differently.

## **Thursday**-----

On Thursday, I started off by looking through legislation being introduced and updated my lists. Then, I continued my work on researching microaggressions against the Hispanic community for the rest of the morning. After having some lunch, I attended a business leader briefing meeting with the White House and took notes. I ended my day with a Virtual Summit meeting.

**Friday**-----

On Friday, I only worked four hours to make up the work I missed on Monday. I did my daily update on legislation tracking and then did some research on the American Family Plan.