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Program: *State University of New York (SUNY) - Oneonta*
Placement: *Poder Latinex*

Journal Entry – Week 5

For my 5th week with CHCI I learned about the role of government in a District Council hearing simulation.

Monday-----

On that Monday, I played the role of council member Charles Allen who's in the Council of the District of Columbia representing Ward 6. The hearing simulation was about whether the city should offer a grant program to support the performing arts sector in Washington, DC after it was greatly impacted by the pandemic. I familiarized myself with his participation in various committees, his positions, and priorities, and then asked questions to various members of the cohort who played other roles such as residents, union representatives, and housing and public health advocates. After they provided a statement the job of the council members was to ask questions and then determine whether the program would be granted. I prepared myself before my day in class in order to properly participate and effectively play my role. This virtual simulation was very informative, and I could describe it as fun and eye opening. I am often surprised at the complexity of these processes because there are many factors to be taken into consideration.

Wednesday-----

On Wednesday, the cohort met with guest speakers who talked about working in fields in which people have different political views and identities. I was mainly intrigued by the aspect of compromising and how it is often done in the political field. Moreover, I learned the essentiality of having conversations with people who think differently or have different working styles to move forward, while still upholding my values. A dialogue about bias was then started; we talked about the implications of unconscious and implicit bias and how these operate outside our consciousness. I reflected on how important it is to recognize how we contribute or affect others with the presence of our own bias.

For my placement with Poder Latinx, I worked on completing sections of different proposals. I continue to learn new things every day and I'm very excited about new projects to come. I was also introduced to the team and received many good wishes from them; they're a very supportive team.