

## Daniela Hernández | HEPCAMP DC Intern

**Program:** *State University of New York - Oneonta*

**Placement:** *Poder Latinex*

### Journal Entry – Week 6

This week was somewhat different than the others. On Monday, we didn't have any programming because of the holiday but I still had to study quite a lot for future class projects and complete my homework. On Tuesday, I worked on proposals for Poder Latinex and then I attended CHCI programming and got the opportunity to meet Congresswoman Veronica Escobar. She shared her experience and path that led her to her current position, her leadership roles, and the importance of being civically involved. She then answered questions some members of the cohort had for her about immigration and the representation of the community in the political sector. She has inspirational experience and a welcoming energy that made me realize that powerful people are just like the people in our communities.

On Wednesday, the cohort got the opportunity to share some time and talk about some of our interests; when we were in smaller groups we talked about foods and tv shows we like and about our schools and our general experience as college students. We played a game in which we had to answer questions about countries in Latin America; I learned that cheese is eaten with chocolate in Colombia and that Mexico has the smallest volcano. It was overall a different experience compared to other programming since there were no formalities. Even when these fun activities are experienced virtually it helps create a connection among the cohort.

On Thursday, I met with my supervisor and talked about new projects which I'm excited about and my experience as an intern. On this day I also got the opportunity to talk with Marco Davis who is President and CEO of the institution. Other interns were present in the call, and we all got to talk about where we are from, our placements, schools, and a fun fact about ourselves. He then answered some questions from the cohort. One of the things I took from this conversation was a new perspective about impostor syndrome Marco provided. He mentioned that institutions of power need people from diverse backgrounds to be efficient and successful, and while we all have our doubts about our potential, it is rare to be in a place where we don't belong. We should *flip the mentality* and remember that we bring a lot to the table.