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

Journal Entry – Week 8

This week I studied and did some research about lobbying before class. I was aware that there is a negative conception of this process. Nonetheless, lobbying can also benefit a community or a group of people when positive policies are advocated.

Monday-----

Monday, we had various activities such as watching videos, forming arguments relating to lobbying, and having a conversation with my peers about the topic.

Wednesday-----

On Wednesday, we had a financial literacy presentation by Lissette Flores, a Community Relations and Minority Affairs Specialist at the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (OCC); Denise Murray, who represents the OCC at a variety of financial capability meetings and forums; and Brittany Shaw, who is a Program Analyst in Public Affairs at the OCC. We also heard from Mercedes Garcia, the Vice President and Community Relations at MasterCard. This programming event helped me be more mindful of my safety when it comes to virtual transactions, and I learned about how to create efficient budgets.

Friday-----

On Friday, Congresswoman Grace Meng spoke to us about her experience as a congress member, the topics that her constituents brought to her attention, and how the job has impacted her. This week was very exciting for my placement because I had the opportunity to introduce myself to the Poder Latinex members in the national department calls. It was very nice to see them, and I felt welcomed. I admired the fact that the organization, of course, can represent the communities with their diversity, leadership, and advocacy. I continue to be inspired by their work and grow both professionally and personally. I got to experience summer for the first time in Oneonta, and of course, the campus looks a bit different without all the students. However, I have the great opportunity to share some time with CAMP staff and students. Since the new students also live in the same building, we got the chance to take walks around campus, make a balloon fight, and watch documentaries.