

Elvia Valdovinos-Cruz | HEPCAMP DC Intern

Program: *Heritage University*
Placement: *The United Farmworkers of America (UFW)*

Journal Entry – Week 8

Monday-----

Today was the HEP/CAMP Association meeting! At the meeting, I had the opportunity to share my work as a United Farm Worker’s intern. I also had the opportunity to hear about the work that the other HEP/CAMP interns are doing in their internships. Later, I joined CHCI programming with Dr. Augustine. We learned how to effectively write an Op-ed piece. Lastly, I met with my UFW supervisor to go over my assignments for the week.

Tuesday-----

My outreach to congressional offices regarding HR. 2193 Asuncion Valdivia Heat Illness and Fatality Prevention Act worked! I have been receiving very positive replies. It makes me beyond happy to see that my work is helping to advance the legislative agenda that benefits the agricultural community I come from. I can truly say, that all the time I have invested in drafting emails to each individual congressional office has been worth it.

Wednesday-----

I started my day with a meeting in which I had the opportunity to meet the new UFW staff member. Later, I joined Wednesday programming with CHCI. In today’s programming I had the opportunity to join a financial roundtable with Lissette Flores (Community Relations & Minority Affairs Specialist) and Brittany Shaw, (Program Analyst). They shared their work to ensure national banks and federal savings associations operate in a safe and sound manner, provide fair access to financial services, treat customers fairly, and comply with applicable laws and regulations.

Thursday-----

Today I had the opportunity to attend a networking event. I was able to meet with interns from the [Asian Pacific American Institute for Congressional Studies](#) (APAICS) and the [Congressional](#)

[Black Caucus Foundation](#) (CBCF). I was able to converse with students about their career goals and the work they are currently doing to achieve their goals. After the event, I moved on to conducting media research about farm workers stories. To end my day, I updated an article database.

Friday-----

I met Congresswoman Grace Meng! It was so inspirational to learn that Grace is the first and only Asian American Member of Congress from New York State and the first female member of congress from Queens since former Vice-Presidential nominee Geraldine Ferraro. Not to mention, that she has fought to expand opportunities for communities of color, young people and women, and secure resources to help local small-businesses.