

The National HEPCAMP Association DC Internship

Weekly Journal Entry

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Date(s): July 17 – July 23

Monday

Today I was woken up by the fire alarm in our building. I knew I was going to be late for work because it usually takes more than 40 minutes for the firefighters to clear the building. I went to work around 10 am and unfortunately missed some of my meetings. This week we are hosting the ADM/NDO. My work day consisted of multiple meetings to discuss last-minute details about the ADM/NDO. After lunch, I completed several tasks for the ADM/NDO. I was given the opportunity to speak at the ADM/NDO and still had a speech to prepare. After work I updated my speech, and was able to make final edits. Around 7 pm, I had dinner with Lilia and Andres, who is the CAMP Coordinator and Director at Sacramento State. I was really excited to see them and talk to them. We spent the entire dinner talking about my experience in D.C. and all the adventures I had encountered while being here. After dinner, I went back to my place to get my computer and went to Maria and Annai's place to talk about our day.



Tuesday

The ADM starts today, I am both nervous and excited. The day didn't start well. I took the metro, and two stops away from my destination, the car broke down. I had to wait 7 minutes before the next car came, which made me late. I was supposed to be there by 8 am, but I got there around 8:20 am. It was exciting meeting new people, and everyone was super nice. After escorting everyone up the elevator I had to prepare myself mentally because today was the day I would give my speech in front of everyone. I don't like public speaking so it made it harder for me to speak in front of everyone. During my speech I cried and I couldn't contain my tears. Afterwards I was still crying and almost everyone came up to me to inform me I was good but I didn't believe it. As the ADM continued I played a small role in monitoring the participants online so that they could hear everything that was being said in person. I stayed at the association meeting to see who was going to be the new president-elect and representatives. Around 4:40 pm I left because I had to attend a CHCI event for DC Latine interns in DC where I also met incredible interns and shared our

LinkedIn. I finally got to my room around 9 pm, but I didn't call my mom so I showered and went to bed because tomorrow I have to wake up early.



Wednesday

On day 2 of ADM, I woke up early to make breakfast and to get dressed. Around 8:15 am, I left with Maria, Annai, Anna, Abigail, and Ismael because they were going to have the opportunity to speak and share a memory about the interns in the association. I was the liaison between in-person and online participants until 9:30 when the interns went up to speak and share a memory. Afterward, we all took pictures waiting for a couple of hours, then Annai took Patrick and I to have lunch in the Library of Congress. The cafeteria was on the top floor and the views were incredible. We got lost trying to exit the building and therefore Patrick and I were late for the next part of the ADM. After the ADM, all of us interns and the USDA interns went to have dinner with the board of the Association and the committee that selected us to come to DC. The dinner was lovely.



Thursday

Today is the third and final day of the ADM/NDO. I was in the green room all day and had lunch with Maria, Leslie, Jesus, Julieta, Stefany, and Mia. I wanted to talk to them since I haven't seen them this week. The NDO ended earlier than most days and I said goodbye to Lilia, Andres, and Patrick. After the NDO, the Office of Elementary and Secondary Education (OESE) was doing an ice cream event and I love ice cream. I got to my room around 3:40pm and took a short nap and woke up at 8 pm. Afterwards, I went to Maria's place for about an hour and then went back to sleep.



Friday

The first part of today's CHCI programming took place in the Department of State which had different opportunities available for interns. For the second part, we had a panel of Latinos who work in the department and they talked to us about their experience. CHCI gave us 2 hours and 30 minutes for lunch because we had to be in the Mexican Culture Institute at 3 pm. I went to Bluelane café to work on my journal, but unfortunately nothing saved so it's almost as if I didn't do anything. I took an Uber with Chris and Mia and we were the first ones to get there since we were 15 minutes early but they wouldn't open the doors until 3pm. They opened the doors and gave us a tour of the building which after they gave us a lecture about the Mexican economy and how it has grown since it opened to international investors. CHCI invited us to the Washington Nats vs. the Giants baseball game and I ate some pupusa and the evening was lovely.



Weekend

On Saturday, I woke up ready to take over the world. I volunteered in the DC central kitchen first thing in the morning for a 3 hour shift. It was honestly very relaxing with the work they do, I enjoyed it. When my shift ended I went back home for a bit before leaving for the eastern market. I purchased a small artwork and other little things. Afterward, I spent time with Maria and Annai.

Sunday was a movie day. At around 10 am I watched Barbie. I was emotional throughout the whole movie. I was thinking of all of the women who have made an impact in my life. Throughout my career, all my supervisors have been women and it has been incredible. After I went to have lunch and around 2:30 pm I went back to the theater and watched Oppenheimer which had a very interesting ending. I loved both movies.

