

## The National HEPCAMP Association DC Internship

### Weekly Journal Entry

Name: Antonio Gutierrez Estrada

Date(s): July 31 – August 5

#### Monday

This morning, I woke up and made breakfast. I got a text from Maria telling me she was working from home at a coffee shop with Lezlie. I decided to take the day off as well and relax, especially since I was feeling sick and did not have a lot of meetings. We were in the coffee shop from 10 am to 3:30 pm. I continued to work on my journals and read a Solito which I haven't touched in weeks. During this time we also had a meeting with the Education Special Advisor to the President, she spoke to us about her personal and professional journey and let us ask her questions. After a relaxing day, we ended the night with a few episodes of Baddies South. I went to my room and I couldn't stop thinking about how fast these past ten weeks went by. I appreciate all the memories I've made with these group of interns from all over the country.



#### Tuesday

Today is my birthday! I turned 19 today! I had a farewell meeting with the office of Migrant Education, they celebrated my birthday and wished me the best. They gave me words of courage and I thanked all my coworkers for making this internship an incredible and unforgettable experience. I want to thank my supervisor Millie for being very patient with me and for being flexible, she guided and mentored me throughout it all and I couldn't have wished for a better supervisor. Later, during the staff meeting for the Office of Elementary and Secondary Education (OESE) Deputy Assistant Secretary, Mark Washington gave me a shout-out. After work Maria, Annai, and Lezlie organized a party for me and everything was fun. I love them so much.

## Wednesday

I worked from home today. I had a meeting with Millie where we went over my progress. We wanted to see if I could still finish some or all of them. I told Millie that I was able to finish them all and that's what I did the rest of the day. I finished almost all of my tasks. I only have 2 more to go and they are short so I will be able to finish them within the first hours of the day. After work, I spent the day with Maria and Annai and later that day we went to Lezlie to watch Guardians of the Galaxy Volume 3 but I didn't finish it because it was getting kinda late so I left and fell asleep.

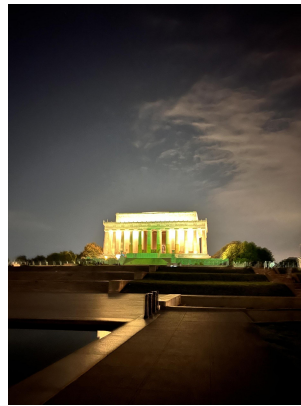
## Thursday

Today is my last day of placement, I am only working half the day but I finished my task and had a meeting with Millie to say goodbye. The HEP and CAMP interns had a virtual meeting with the Department of Labor (DOL) at 11 am. We asked questions and spoke for a while. I finished my last task and at 1 pm I went to the Department of Education to turn in my computer and PIV card. I got back to my place around 3 pm and cleaned within a couple of hours. Once I finished I started to pack and at around 4 pm, Maria and I went to NVG to take the pots and pans but instead of taking an uber we decided to take the metro and let's just say it was a struggle. When we were a few blocks away from NVG, the pots and pans fell down in the corner. We were rushing and they fell, but we picked them up and continued walking. Around 9 pm we went to Lezlie's apartment to finish Baddies South but we didn't finish it. We had one more episode left.



## Friday

We had CHCI programming but it was only from 9 to noon with members of the CHCI alumni association. They spoke about benefits. For the last part, we had a session where we all had to pick a word and write it down to describe this internship and why. I chose the word presence because even though I was a hybrid I still showed up to everything and I connected with a lot of people in the Department of Ed on the days I was there. After programming a few of us went to see Barbie. I still cried during the sad part of the movie. After the movie Maria, Annai, Mia and I went gift shopping. I finished cleaning my part of the apartment and by 9, I had put all my luggage in Maria's room. But tonight we didn't sleep until around 11pm because we watched the last episode of Baddies South and went to the Lincoln Memorial where we sat down and spoke for more than 3 hours. We got to Lezlie's room around 2 am and we played a last-minute game of We Aren't Really Strangers. Around 3:50 am Maria and Annai went to the room and got their suitcases. This is where the sad part started. I couldn't stop crying after they left. I went to take a nap at 5 am.



## Weekend

Saturday I woke up from my 2 hour nap. It was 7:30 am I went to Starbucks and got breakfast and coffee and around 9 am I turned in my key and also Annai and Maria and Mia. I left for the airport with Mia and Aisaiah in an Uber. We got there at 10:25 am. We checked in and passed through TSA although I was going to St. Louis and they were going to Chicago. Our gates were next to each other so I spent the time with them until 1 pm when I boarded the plane. I am in St. Louis now. I was there for 4 hours and finally at 6:40 pm I boarded my last plane to Sacramento. I arrived in Sac around 9 pm where after 10 weeks I finally gave a hug to my mom who I miss so much.

