

## The National HEPCAMP Association DC Internship

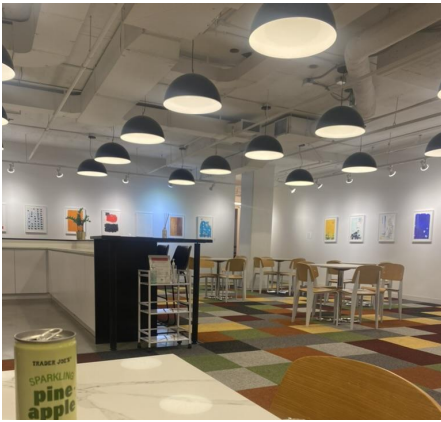
### Weekly Journal Entry

Name: Anna Bedolla-Gutierrez

Date(s): July 24 - July 30, 2023

Monday, July 24, 2023

It is the second to last week of our internship in DC. It feels a little surreal. I was stepping into an airport for the first time and flying across the country back in May and now I am almost going back home. I am thrilled to be going home soon.



Today for work, we were finally going to present the group project all the CHLI interns had been working on since our internship began.

We were all able to present to Mary Ann, the President and CEO of CHLI. She gave us feedback on our project and areas of improvement. Even though there were a few spots in which we could improve on, we all did well on our assignment.

Wednesday, July 26, 2023



Today I had two events going on. The first was touring the Next Gen CHCI students, and the second was the CHCI Graduation Ceremony.

For the next-gen students, we were to meet at the Capitol to tour them around seeing what we had access to taking them through the House offices and the Senate offices. I was placed with the Northern California students, so most students were around the Fresno area, only a few hours away. It was nice to meet high school students from California aspiring to one day come work at Capitol. The students were meeting with the two senators from California, Alex Padilla and Dianne Feinstein. I was super excited to also be able to meet them as this was my only chance. The first stop that we had to take the next gen students was to meet Alex Padilla. We met Alex Padilla at the Senate steps as he was coming out from a meeting. We were not

allowed to take our pictures on our phones but Alex Padilla's staff and interns were the ones taking the pictures for us and would eventually be sending the pictures to CHCI. After meeting with Alex Padilla we traveled to the house offices to tour the students for which they wanted to go into Cannon to view AOC's office. On the way to the Cannon building, we were able to meet a few Congressmen on their way to the Capitol. After touring the house buildings we ended up taking the students to the Longworth cafeteria for them to eat lunch. After they had eaten lunch we all traveled to the Senate through the tunnels. I had not been through the tunnels on the way to the Senate so that was cool being able to take the train. Once we arrived at the Senate specifically, The Hart Building, we waited for Feinstein's staff to come out and meet us. The students had a great time talking with both Alex Padilla and Feinstein's staff. After this, it was time for us to take the students back to their bus so they would be on their way.

After touring the Next Gen students, I had to quickly make my way to the NAB building as quickly as possible for the CHCI graduation ceremony. We were going to have our graduation ceremony. Fortunately, I made it back on time before the event started and we were able to get a rundown of how the ceremony would begin. The ceremony was a small event with a lot of our placement office staff coming to support. Including a few congressmen and women who also came to the event. It felt surreal once again to finally have graduated from the program and be accepted into the alumni association for CHCI. I did not think two months would go by so

quickly. After the ceremony, I traveled back home on my own to my dorm to relax and prepare for the next day.



Saturday July 29 and Sunday, July 30, 2023

This was the last weekend we would be in Washington DC to do any last-minute shopping or trips we wanted to take. For me, that meant I wanted to do last-minute gift shopping for my family back in California and do last-minute traveling. I woke up early on Saturday to head with Abby to the Eastern Market. Once there, I was able to purchase a small gift for my sister but still left me a few other gifts to buy. It was super hot that day so Abby and I decided to go back to our dorms a little earlier and I decided to leave gift shopping for the next day. I woke up early Sunday morning to go to the Georgetown flea market. A few other hubcap interns decided to take the bus down to Georgetown and eventually take another bus to the flea market. At the flea market, I was able to buy a few other gifts for my mom and my other sisters. I also walked through the flea market just looking at what was being sold. I generally really like going up into Georgetown and just walking through the streets as well as just people watching. I think everyone in Georgetown was very interesting to watch. Once noon hit, I quickly went up to the train and traveled to Union Market where we were going to be meeting Fabiola from the USDA. She wanted to meet us one last time before we all left back to our home. I was excited because I had not been to Union Market and I had mentioned that it was the place where there were multiple different restaurants in one building. When we got to Union Market I was amazed at how many restaurant shops were in one building. I ended up getting a bowl of ramen and some boba and took it up to the rooftop where we were able to sit with

Fabiola and just relax for the entire afternoon with her asking a couple questions and us asking questions back. After I had finished meeting with Fabiola and all of the other interns, Abby and I decided to head back to Georgetown to have a little fun and meet with a few friends we had made in DC during the two months. We spent our whole afternoon in Georgetown eventually riding a scooter back to Foggy Bottoms and walking the National Mall one last time. The World War II Memorial was very pretty at night and I just sat there along with a lot of other tourists and residents also having the same idea of sitting by the fountain and enjoying the night. By the time Abby and I got back home, we were both very tired and decided to go straight to bed and that was our last weekend together.

