

The National HEP CAMP Association DC Internship

Weekly Journal Entry

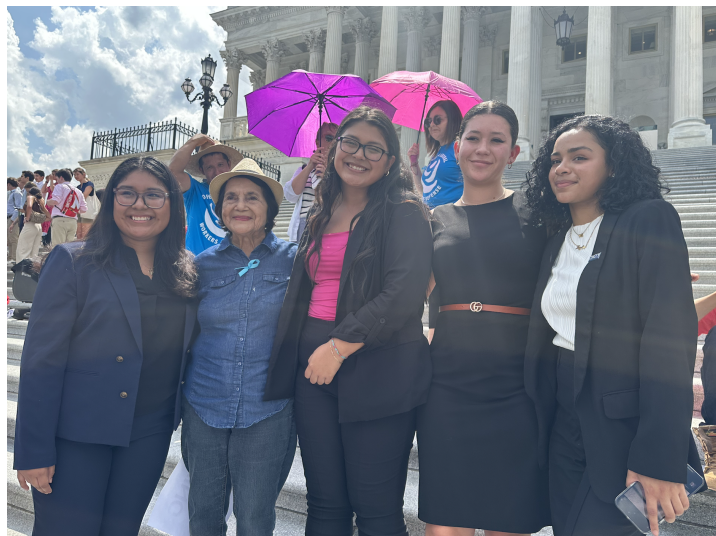
Name: Maria Flores

Date(s): 07/24/23 - 07/30/23

Tuesday, July 25th, 2023

Fighting for Farmworkers

This summer there have been really high temperatures throughout all states including Texas, California, and Arizona. With that being said farmworkers from these states are dying



because of the high temperatures and poor conditions. Congressman Greg Cassar has been one of the congressmen who has been fighting for farmworker rights to water breaks which can prevent heat exhaustion. So today he went on a hunger and thirst strike. Other interns and I got the opportunity to go up to the capitol and witness the hard work that these individuals are doing for our people. It was really heartwarming to see that there are actual people within the government who care for our community.

I got to meet the legend, Dolores Huerta; she has been such an icon when it comes to farmworker rights. It was such a privilege to get the opportunity to talk to her and I'm thankful to have had the opportunity to do so. These sorts of leaders are the ones who inspire me to want to fight for my community and they are living proof que "Si Se Puede".

But it's sad to see that we have to go to certain extremes to get the change we need within our farmworker communities and I hope that the Biden administration sees how our people are being impacted and does something regarding this issue.

Once I went back to the office, I got to talk to Rep. Grijalva about the issues going on and he assured me he would go to the hunger and thirst strike as well. After that,



the rest of the day consisted of answering constituent calls and helping with projects.

Wednesday, July 26th, 2023

From now on I'm a CHCI Alumni

We started our morning by wanting to attend a briefing on UFOs. Yes, this is actually one of the first briefings on this topic in the House. When we arrived at Rayburn for the briefing,



there was a line so long you could not see the end. We were never going to get the opportunity to go there. Many individuals had been there one or two hours prior to it starting. So as we headed back to the office we stopped by a hearing for migrant children in the foster care system on how they go about when it comes to assigning families. I had never really paid attention to this topic and it sort of amazed me the fact that

Republicans were so supportive when it came to these kids' well-being but their actions don't show so.

Later that day we had our CHCI graduation which took place at the NAB, the National Association of Broadcasters. I invited my office but sadly they were running late because of votes. We also invited Irene Bueno from NVG, Fabiola, and Lisa Ramirez from USDA. These amazing women have been so motivational and empowering to HEP/CAMP interns and they have given us so many amazing opportunities. I could not thank them enough for everything they have done for us.



Graduation itself was sad because it was sort of one more step toward the end. Even though at the beginning I was



skeptical of coming here to D.C.. In my cohort I have been able to get really close with the other interns and it's sad because we are all from different states. I'm really proud of everyone including myself for all the progress we have made through these two months. Now I'm actually a CHCI Alumni and I can be added to the rest of the CHCI family.

Thursday, July 27th, 2023

Emotional Rollercoaster

Today, I went to work at 9 am. It was really quiet today in the office since Lezlie, the intern, is not here as her family is in town. I'm really happy that they placed another CHCI intern in our office. My day goes by so fast as we joke around, talk, and have lunch together. We have been able to get really close to each other and because of that our staff usually gives us projects in which we work on together.



Today was technically the last day we would see all the staff in the office since next week recess is starting. Because of that, our staff decided to do a little goodbye celebration. They bought a cake for us and signed a happy intern day song. It was like a happy birthday but for the intern day. Also, our staff highlighted us on their

social media for intern day and they made a little video with the pictures we had taken last week.

I truly enjoyed working with all the staff and I couldn't be any happier with everything I've done within our office. It was a bittersweet moment as they were somehow my family for these past two months. They actually gifted us some things and even wrote a card for us.

I also got the opportunity to say bye to my congressman. He assured me that they would always be here for me if I were to need anything and to never hesitate to reach out.



Friday, July 28th, 2023

One last time

Last time we went to programming. I think that even though programming could be a little draining it was truly a learning experience. I've been able to learn about policing, the Latino community, and myself as well. It also served as a time for our cohort to bond and come together to debate, learn, and laugh. In today's session, we covered the importance of cover letters and what to include in them. I personally think that having this session on cover letters was helpful as it was different from sessions I've had before.

We had two past CHCI Alumni come talk to us about their different experiences with law school and graduate school. I think it was really helpful to see the different perspectives and experiences they both had. They talked about the pros and cons and just gave us advice on what to pursue for higher education. Being able to see individuals who were in my shoes now on the hill or in top-ranking jobs gives me hope that maybe all have those opportunities as well.

Weekend, July 29th - 30th, 2023

Last full weekend

My Saturday consisted of waking up super early to go to Six Flags. Annai and I headed to Virginia really early to try and beat the lines for the amusement park. When we got there, there was not that bad of a line. I had been to Six Flags before in California and I sort of expected this big amusement park. Sadly it did not meet my expectations and it was pretty small. Even though we were only at the park for around 3 hours, we had fun. I think that at this point since we have so little time together I try to cherish whatever we do no matter how good or bad.

On Sunday, we met up with Fabiola who works with the USDA as she was going to connect us with a staffer from the White House. We were able to have lunch with him and he talked about his experience working at the White House and what he enjoys about his job. He is actually a CHCI Alumni and that made me even more excited. I have been able to find so many individuals on the Hill and federal agencies who were part of CHCI and it's amazing to see way more Latinos in these leadership positions.

