

Cecilia Martinez

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### Student Success Internship: Migrant Children in Detention

Going into this internship I was excited to be learning about issues related to the immigration policy and its consequences. This is a topic I have always been interested in due to it being a huge ongoing issue. I was able to learn more about the thousands of children held in detention after crossing the border even if it was just through data. Through this internship I was in charge of an increased amount of data where I learned a lot about these migrant children such as their ages, origin, and when they were released. Seeing how a lot of the data was missing for some of these kids was somewhat surprising because you would think that such agencies should have all their records organized and updated. It was all very shocking data at times seeing the amount of time these innocent children spent in such horrible conditions. Learning more about these issues was very eye opening and taught me a lot. Working with an increased amount of data was definitely something I learned a lot from. It taught me how to stay organized and set goals for myself to get through a certain amount of data to clean and organize it.

One difficulty I faced during this internship was digitalizing the data because of the way it is distributed from agencies. The amount of data that I was dealing with was also definitely very time consuming since it was more than just a couple names; it was trying to adapt to working with plenty of data as well. That was one of my biggest difficulties during this internship but it was also a learning process in how to figure out new methods in hopes of speeding up the cleaning data process. Being that this internship was fully remote I believe that also played a big factor into my experience overall. Being in a pandemic all while doing this internship was something very new to me and was an experience I still enjoyed but it was

somewhat difficult since there was no in person contact which I believe was detrimental in fulfilling accomplishments.

Another project I worked on was looking into metering in the border. That was another interesting topic I looked into to try and find relevant information and articles. When I was doing research for that I came across a couple relevant scholarly articles that were interesting when reading and learning more about. Although doing the research to find such relevant articles was a pretty big obstacle, since there is a lack of formal studies on topics such as metering. This made it hard to find a lot of good reliable articles. Having this lack of formal studies on topics, like metering, made it difficult to have a well established base from which to push the project forward. Overall, this internship taught me a lot of new skills as well as helped me improve the ones I already had. I really enjoyed my experience throughout this internship and everything I was able to learn this past couple of months.